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In Clubs of Twenty.....1 50
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HISTORY OF A WEATHERCOCK.

Being the Wonderful and Instructive Legend of Medio-Pollito.

(Translated from the Spanish of Fernan Caballero.)

[So little is known up to the present day of the popular tales and legends of Spain, and the specimen which we here present to our younger readers is so good and so uncommon of its kind, that we feel that we stand in need of no excuse for our selection, even to the graver portion of our readers. No Dr. Dasent has as yet undertaken to explore the folk-lore of Spain, and the formal and punctilious Spaniard is in general but little suspected to possess the great fund of native humor which in reality lurks beneath his stateliness. The conversation of the lower orders indeed bristles all over with quaint proverbs and humorous sayings, as is exemplified in the inimitable Sancho Panza of immortal celebrity; and an inquiry into popular tales, proverbs, and songs of that little frequented part of Europe would richly repay the labor of those interested in such matters.

The legend here given is the Andalusian one, and professes to explain the origin of weathercocks in the history of Medio-Pollito, or Half-Chicken, the cross-grained founder of his tribe. The curious superstition alluded to in it, of eggs being laid by old cocks, is firmly believed by the people; and we have heard it asserted by a well informed Spaniard that an unusually small egg which he had found in the hen-roost must certainly have been laid by the cock. A cock, however, is said to lay only once in his life, and the basilisk contained in the egg takes seven years to hatch. The first person he sees on breaking his shell he is able to kill by the power of his eye; but if any one should first see him, the basilisk himself dies. Scarcely less curious is the notion, on which the final catastrophe hinges, of St. Peter's dislike to the crowing of a cock, and his stooping to take revenge on one that had offended him in this manner. Our story is translated from *La Gaviota*, a tale of Spanish life by Fernan Caballero, the greatest living Spanish novelist.]

There was once upon a time a handsome Hen who lived very comfortably in a court-yard surrounded by her numerous family, among whom there was one chicken that was both lame and ugly. Now this was the very one that the mother loved best of all, for that is the way with mothers.

This cripple had been hatched from a very tiny little egg. He was indeed no more than half a chicken, for he had only one eye, one wing, and one claw; and for all that he gave himself more airs than his fellows, who were all the handsomest and bravest and most gentlemanly cock in all the fowl-yards for sixty miles round. This chick thought himself the Phœnix of his race. If the other cocks laughed at him he thought it was out of envy; and if the hens fled, he said that it was for anger because of the little attention that he paid them.

One day he said to his mother, "Look here, Mother. The country wearies me; I have made up my mind to go to Court. I want to see the King and Queen."

The poor mother began to tremble when she heard these words.

"My son," she exclaimed, "who could have put such nonsense into your head? Your father has never been further than the domain, and he is the pride of his race. Why, where would you find such a court-yard as you have here? Or where a grander manure heap? Where would you find more plentiful food, a warmer hen-roost, or a family that loves you more dearly?"

"Nego," said Medio-Pollito in Latin, for he set up to be a great scholar. "My brothers and my cousins are ignorant clowns."

"But, my son," continued his mother, "have you never looked at yourself in the glass? Have you not found out that you are sick of time to save my life. I am at my last gasp for want of fuel. I cannot think what has become of my cousin the Wind, for it is he who always brings me all my troubles. Do bring me one or two little straws to revive me."

"What business is it of mine, I should like to know? replied Medio-Pollito, turning up his nut if you like, and welcome. I don't want you."

"Who knows but you may want me some day?" answered the Flame. "Who knows but you may be glad to go and ask me for a light?"

"Now, then," said the cross creature, "must you always be preaching? Take that, then!"

And so saying, he covered him with ashes; after which he began to crow as usual, as though he had done some great deed.

Medio-Pollito at last reached the capital, and passed in front of a church which they told him was St. Peter's. Thereupon he set himself in the doorway and crowed until he nearly cracked his voice, for nothing in the world but to annoy the Saint, and to have the pleasure of disobeying his mother.

When he came to the Palace he wanted to go in to see the King and Queen, but the sentinels cried out to him, "Keep off!"

Thereupon he turned aside and went through a back door into a room where he saw a great many people passing to and fro. He asked who they were, and was informed that they were His Majesty's cooks. Instead of running away, as his mother had advised him to do, in he marched with head and crest erect.

Immediately one of the scullions laid hands on him, and wrung his neck in the twinkling.

"Hullo there!" said he, "bring me some hot water that I may pluck this fowl."

"Water, and a beautiful crystal lady!" cried Medio-Pollito, "do not exalt me, I entreat you. Have pity on me!"

"Hadst thou any pity, when I asked thy help, ill-natured bird!" replied the Water, boiling with indignation, and splashing him from head to foot, while the scullions soon left him without a single feather to cover him.

Then the cook laid hold of him and put him on the spit.

"Fire, brilliant Fire!" cried the unhappy bird, "Thou who art so powerful and so glorious, have pity on my state, draw in thy flames and burn me not."

"Wretch!" replied the Fire, "how darest thou appeal to me, after having attempted to smother me on the pretext that thou couldst never need my help? Come near and see what I can do!"

And, not content with browning him, he burnt him as black as a cinder.

When the cook saw him in this state, he took him by the leg and flung him out of the window.

Immediately the wind caught hold of him.

"Wind!" cried Medio-Pollito, "my dear and much honored Wind! thou who reignest over all and obeyest none, mightiest among the mighty! have compassion on me, and leave me alone on this rubbish-heap!"

"Leave thee!" roared the wind, snatching him away in an eddy and whirling him through the air like a shuttlecock, "No, never as long as I live!"

He set Medio-Pollito down on the top of a steeple. St. Peter stretched out his hand and fastened him there. From that time forth he occupies this post, blackened, flattened and featherless, lashed by the Rain, and puffed at by the Wind, from whom he is always trying to protect his tail.

He is no longer called Medio-Pollito, but Weather-cock. But be it known to you all, but there he still is, reaping the just reward for his disobedience, his pride, and his ill-nature.

THE CATTLE EPIDEMIC IN NEW JERSEY.

Serious Alarm Among Farmers and Cattle Owners.

The farmers and owners of cattle in New Jersey have recently been seriously alarmed at the simultaneous appearance in various parts of the State of a new disease among their horses and mules. The disease has, in the few cases which have up to the present time occurred, invariably proved fatal, and although the symptoms are not in all instances identical, they are sufficiently alike in their general character to warrant the belief that they are the beginning of an epidemic, which may possibly create as much loss among the cattle of this section of the country as the well known rinderpest has already caused in Europe. It is admitted by all the past year, and more especially the extraordinary winter which is now closing, has been extremely unfavorable to the health of either man or beast, and there is a reasonable basis for the fear that the unusual physical conditions under which we have been placed, may have produced effects which, although they have hitherto remained dormant, may shortly become only too clearly apparent. For some time complaints have been made in nearly every county in the State of New Jersey, to the effect that an unusual amount of sickness was prevailing among horses; and, in fact, live-stock generally. One of the most dangerous and fatal diseases which attack horses—lung fever—has lately been extremely destructive, while every other malady which they are at any time visited has exhibited with more or less intensity. A number of deaths have, however, occurred in which the precise nature of the disease is unknown; though many of the symptoms are similar to those which in human beings characterize typhoid fever.

Special Scientific Brevities.

Dr. Sterry Hunt, F. R. S., says: The revelations of the spectroscope demonstrate that the same chemical elements are found, from the earth, the sun, and the farthest stars, and that matter exists throughout space as luminous gas (nebula), and condensed into luminous suns and non-luminous planets, three conditions, through which, according to the nebular hypothesis, all matter must pass in the process of condensation. Another of the arguments in favor of this hypothesis, which is supported by so many astronomical reasons, and which supposes that not only the bodies of the solar system, but all those which astronomy makes known to us, had a common origin from a vaporous mass which once filled immensity.

Volcanic eruptions have their seat, not in the original nucleus, which is solid, but in the deeply-buried strata heated by this nucleus, and are no more than pustules or cutaneous eruptions of the earth's surface. Active volcanoes are only met with in or near great seas where the accumulation of sedimentary rocks has been great in comparatively recent geological periods that is to say, where there are great thicknesses of newer secondary or tertiary rocks, and their absence from eastern America, and their occurrence along its western coast. As by the chemical action of heat, the deeply buried strata are exhausted, volcanoes become extinct.—*Ibid.*

The conclusions as to the solidity of the earth's centre, deduced from chemical and physical considerations, are further supported by the astronomical calculations of William Hopkins on the phenomena of procession and nutation, those of Thompson on the tides, and those of Pratt on the pressure of mountain masses on the earth's surface, all of which conduct to the conclusion that the earth, if not solid to the centre, must have a solid crust two thousand miles of more in thickness. The heat of the mass beneath the cooled surface is still nearly that at which the matter congealed; the loss of heat by radiation now proceeds very slowly. —*Ibid.*

Internal heat, slowly conducted upwards, alters, crystallizes and metamorphoses the sedimentary rocks, and with the aid of water everywhere diffused, gives rise to a soft and pasty layer, upon which the solid upper strata repose. From this softened layer have come the eruptive and scotic rocks which are portions of these unlike sedimentary beds, displaced and forced upward through fissures. Scarcely less curious are of such mixed compositionas to yield, by their fusion, great volumes of various gases, which, finding vent, together with the fused rocks or lavas, give rise to volcanic phenomena.—*Ibid.*

Maryland's Appeal.

The Republican members of the Maryland Legislature have addressed a memorial to the Legislature, the tone and purpose of which will be gathered from the following extracts:

The rebels of Maryland sent South during the war some 25,000 thousand soldiers for the rebel army. These men have nearly all returned, and an emigration from the South since the war has largely added to their number. By doubtful construction they may have obtained, under the existing Constitution, this General Assembly, thus elected, has enfranchised all white men, no matter what their record of loyalty or disloyalty, and has thus added to the voting population about thirty thousand who have only lately ceased an armed resistance to the Government. Not satisfied with this, they have just passed a militia bill which, in direct defiance of the present Constitution of the State, has made all white rebels, no matter what their previous treason, part of the militia force. They have, by deliberate vote, refused to exclude, even from the highest office under this State, any person, no matter what his rank in the rebel army, and they are about to put in force this law, the effect of which is against our own Constitution and the army laws of Congress, and which puts in the rear of the capital an armed force, composed largely of the same men who have just been forced to cease armed attempts to capture the capital.

* * *

The danger of bloodshed is imminent and the times are perilous. We call upon Congress not to adjourn before settling this grave matter, which, if not settled, may startle them in their recess by something like the bloody scenes of New Orleans, although not so unequal and one-sided. We earnestly ask, on the part of the people of the State of Maryland, deprived of legal voice, except through the minority of the General Assembly, that Congress will guarantee to us a republican form of government on the only basis of right, truth and peace—impartial suffrage, without reference to race or color, as it has already guaranteed it to the Southern States.

Atlantic and Great Western R. R.

A meeting of the bond, debenture and share holders of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway was held in London on the 5th inst. The meeting was largely attended, and the proceedings of much interest. The management of the American Board was sharply criticised by the meeting, and charges made of a needless expenditure of money and loose direction of the Company's affairs. The result was the appointment of a committee, representing the various classes of creditors of the road, to take the affairs of the company under its management. The members of the committee are Sir William Russell, M. P., Mr. C. M. P. Mr. Fildes, M. P., and Mr. Crashaw Bailey, M. P., with power to add another member to represent the interests of the foreign shareholders. The committee is clothed with power to take possession of the line, remove the entire Board of Directors, if necessary, or appoint a Receiver, and, in short, to have complete and unlimited control of the property. Mr. Cave, one of the Committee, announced to the meeting that he should at once sail for the United States and take the necessary steps for obtaining possession of the road, stopping all leakages, and making proper division of the earnings. In reply to a question from Mr. Cave, Mr. McHenry, as the contractor and heaviest shareholder in the Company, stated he will aid the Committee every facility in his power for the accomplishment of its object, and will act in entire co-operation with it.

In the course of the discussion it was stated that the working expense of the line is 78 per cent., in place of 55 per cent., to which figure it should be reduced. There are ten workmen employed to the mile instead of six, as on most other American lines; and the average of monthly wages is $50, whilst the average of other lines is but $25. There was a strong expression of feeling against Express Freight organizations, and the Committee will adopt measures to abolish all arrangements of that kind on the Atlantic and Great Western line.

The President is importuned with protests, against the official changes in Louisiana by General Sheridan. B. L. Lynch, appointed Attorney General in place of Herron, was the Attorney General of the State under the military control of Butler and Banks; Edward Heath, appointed Mayor in place of Monroe, was Comptroller of the State finances under Banks; and W. W. Howe, appointed District Judge in place of Abell, was Judge Advocate of the Military department under Butler, Banks and Canby.

Says the Wheeling *Register*: The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company are now delivering freight shipped over their road at the doors of the consignees in this city. Freight shipped over this road by the "Lightning Express" freight line are carried through on passenger time.

CONNELLSVILLE RAIL-ROAD DEBATE.

Remarks of Senator Taylor, of Beaver.

During the debate in the State Senate on the bill to restore its chartered privileges to the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad Company, Senator Taylor, of Beaver, made a forcible argument in its favor. He gave a lucid history of the company from its incorporation to the present time, and the antagonisms it experienced from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The discrimination in the freight charges of the monopoly were also clearly shown up. He said: Sir, we cannot disguise the facts in this case. We need not attempt to conceal from our own minds a state of things so clear and palpable. It must be admitted that upon the good faith of Pennsylvania, solemnly pledged by the Connellsville charter, millions of money had been invested by the citizens of a neighboring State, as well as by our own citizens, and it seems to me, the stigma of bad faith will stain the purity and mar the lustre of our reputation, if this repealing act is allowed to remain upon our statute books.

Mr. Speaker, let us glance for a moment at some of its results. The highest public consideration, the best interest of the people, most clearly and emphatically demand the construction of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville road to the eastern boundary of Somerset county, where it would connect with and secure the building of the Southern Pennsylvania road, and thence through the Southern tier of counties eastward, thus establishing a line that would, to some extent, compete with the Pennsylvania Central. But as it now is, it is a mere tributary to this great monopoly, instead of a competitor, as it should be. Sir, it is a fact that the traffic and travel over this sixty miles of road from Connellsville to Pittsburgh, is in a direction almost opposite to that in which it finds its market and seeks its destination, thus doubling time, distance and expense.

This, of course, is oppressive to the people in the particular section to which we refer. But, sir, this is not all; it is but a small portion of the evil inflicted by the defeat of this enterprise. The construction of this road would open up a section of this great Commonwealth containing untold millions of mineral wealth. More than one hundred miles of the State through which it would pass is rich in its deposits of coal and iron, besides the inexhaustible quarries of marble along the Youghiogheny river, which is said to be as "fine in texture and beautiful in polish" as the celebrated Tennessee marble so much used in the public buildings of the country. And this wealth is now entirely useless to its proprietors and the State, while its development would give new life and open up new facilities to every county on the southern border of the State, and great increase the general prosperity of the entire Commonwealth. No man who will study the geography of the State will fail to see that the great mining, agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests of southwestern Pennsylvania most imperatively demand an additional outlet to the seaboard. Why shall the people in this region be compelled to submit to the exactions of those who control the existing thoroughfares, when they are willing with their own means, for their own benefit, to open up another road, which would not benefit the public, but add to the power, population and material wealth of the whole State? The great wealth of our State consists in her natural advantages—in her vast agricultural and mineral resources, and stimulated by liberal railroad privileges, the enterprise of our population would speedily develop her resources, and Pennsylvania, now dwarfed and restricted, would soon become an empire within herself. The truth of this finds an illustration in the beneficial results secured by adjoining States in the passage of a general railroad law, by which full and ample privileges, equal rights, and equal protection in all these matters of public enterprise and improvement.

The intelligence and determination of our people will no longer submit to the unjust and tyrannical policy by which we have been so long prevented from acquiring the supremacy, as a State, to which our natural resources and the energy of our citizens so justly entitle us. Let the shackles of this feudalism be broken and a liberal policy in our railroad system be adopted, and we may anticipate an era of the most enduring prosperity, of the increasing and lasting progress. Sir, the people simply ask the right to develop and utilize these vast resources of our State at their own expense and at their own risk; they ask no favor—no special privilege—they are not pleading for an appropriation from the treasury, but for permission to invest their own capital in an enterprise which will increase the wealth, population and general wealth of the whole State.

* * *

The immediate passage of this bill, sir, is imperatively demanded by the growing necessities of the capital and labor of the great West.

Even now the Central Road is the bottleneck of the demands for transit, the bountiful traffic of the Western States; and, already, much of it is driven entirely round Pennsylvania by the Central Ohio, connecting with the Baltimore and Ohio road at Wheeling, and the Lake Shore, as well as by the Atlantic and Great Western Road. Much of this freight and travel would pass over this new route, and every passenger and every ton of freight thus transported would pay some tribute to the State. Is it true that Philadelphia would suffer by this additional road from east to west. It would bring to that city ten-fold more than it would take away, and retrade that might be diverted from it; and by enriching the whole State, would, of course, add to the commerce and material wealth of that city. It is a fact worthy of the attention of those who are so closely guarding the interests of this great city, that the rates of tariff, as before cited, make a discrimination in favor of New York and against Philadelphia of forty-eight cents per hundred weight on her immense quantity of through freight. I assert this as a fact, and defy refutation from any quarter. If this discrimination [Mr. McCandless], or that other gentleman, the Senator from Lancaster [Mr. Fisher] who has just distinguished himself as the special champion of Philadelphia interests, will undertake to explain how this discrimination will enhance the commercial interests of that city, I will cheerfully give way to hear such explanation. They will not attempt it! Now, sir, I have been amused to hear gentlemen upon this floor, who are opposing this bill, talk of the rights of Philadelphia, as if those rights were assailed by a foreign foe. Who, sir, amongst the friends of this bill, propose to inflict an injury upon the people of that city? We yield no one, not even the gentleman from Lancaster (Mr. Fisher) —in our love for the high-minded, generous, enterprising citizens of the Quaker City. They are a part of our glorious Union, and justly celebrated throughout the world for their fatherly devotion to the cause of human liberty. They are entitled to our consideration, and I think, sir, they will admit that this legislature has always been ready to grant any just legislation for which they have ever asked. Their numerous and varied interests have been carefully watched over, and those who seek that the passage of this bill would be hostile to their best interest, are blinded by a policy far too narrow and selfish to receive the approbation of the people. We are simply asking the completion of this road on the ground that a portion of the western traffic might be diverted from the markets of Philadelphia, should not forget that there are other interests in which the Commonwealth outside the limits of that city, Philadelphia is indeed a great city—the metropolis of the State, but not the State itself.

I will not speak of the Pittsburgh coal, manufacturing city of Western Pennsylvania, its commercial interests, or the energy of its public spirited citizens. We demand for them and for every section of this State, east, west, north and south, such legislation as will enable them to take care of their own interests, and guard their own prosperity.

I take it, sir, the people of western and southwestern Pennsylvania are as industrious, as enterprising and as loyal, as in any other portion of the State, and I, for one, will not believe that we have taken, discharge our duty as the servants of the people, we cannot disregard their interests—we dare not trample upon their sacred rights. In the consideration of every question of great public interest we are bound to look not at the wants and desires of our own locality, our immediate constituents, but the welfare of the great Commonwealth. I appeal to on this floor knows that the great mass of people in that section of the State are most earnest in this matter, and with one accord, and with but few exceptions, their delegation in Congress implore this Legislature for the passage of this bill. They are justly aroused by a sense of wrong which they have borne until it has become almost unendurable, and they ask relief in silence. They ask not for mercy—they demand simple justice, and sooner or later that demand will be granted. It may not be to-day, or to-morrow, or this year, but it must come soon; the people will arise in their majesty, and so sure as there is justice in heaven the emphatic voice of an outraged people will be heard and respected in these halls of legislation.

Shall we paralyze the energy of the fairest portion of our State and impede the development of its enormous wealth, because, forsooth, a neighboring State will not share with us the benefits arising from a better policy? If we are so contracted in our views as to be unable to look beyond the boundary of our own State, let us at least be consistent. Let this legislature and show our selfish policy by repealing the charter of the Northern Central road and every other road communicating with any of the border States? I trust, sir, that there is far distant when we shall be prepared for this. Every improvement, of whatever character, calculated to expand the wealth and power of one section of the country, will inure to the benefit of all its parts. Any measure that will give a new impulse to the general business and prosperity of our people, will not fail to benefit the States adjoining us. The prosperity of the West will not injure the city of Philadelphia.

We cannot restrict or change the operation of the laws of trade in this respect if we would; we should not do so if we could.

The Senator then considered the legal proceedings in the case, and concluded as follows:

But an appeal has been taken from this decision, and the question will be settled by the courts, and may remain undecided for years to come. In view of all these facts, I cannot agree with those who believe that it would be undignified in the Legislature to pass this bill and thus end the ceaseless litigation; it is never undignified to do right and show fair play.

It has been asserted here that this is a mere contest between two corporations, each striving for exclusive authority to construct the road. This assertion, however plausible it may seem, is not warranted by a single fact in the entire history of the contest. It is a reflection upon the intelligence of those whom we represent upon this floor. Every particle of evidence that has been adduced—every argument that has been presented—every circumstance connected with the case from first to last—most conclusively demonstrates, that it is the great struggle of the people against a powerful and grasping corporation. Sir, it is the fight of the people against a monopoly through whose influence, as they believe, they have lost some of their most sacred rights, and by whose power they have been so long and so deeply humiliated, that all patience is exhausted. They implore this Legislature to expunge from the statute books a law by which they have been most grossly outraged, and to restore those rights of which, through its operation, they have been unjustly and unconstitutionally deprived. This is the true character of the contest: nothing more, nothing less. The people demand the protection of their interests and the recognition of their rights in this respect. The passage of this bill will, to some extent, secure these desirable results. I shall vote for it with a firm conviction of its eminent justice, and with the assurance that it is imperatively demanded by the highest public considerations.

The Pennsylvania Senate.

The present State Senate is composed of twenty-one Republicans and twelve Democrats, giving the Republicans a majority of nine. With the close of the present session, eleven Senators will retire by expiration of their terms as follows:

2. C. M. Donovan, D.	14. John Walls, D.
5. Horace Rover, R.	21. Louis W. Hall, R.
6. Oliver P. Ramey, D.	23. Kirk Haines, R.
7. Geo. B. Schall, D.	25. T. J. Bigham, R.
8. J. DePuy Davis, D.	29. M. B. Lowry, R.
9. Wm. M. Randall, D.	

Of the retiring Senators, six are Democrats and five Republicans, and any ordinary election, says the Berks *Journal*, would return men of like political faith in all the districts but the 14th, (Lycoming, Union and Snyder,) where a Republican should be chosen, and thus add two to the Republican majority in the next Senate.

An American Ambassador at Madagascar.

The Paterson (N. J.) Guardian gives an account of a visit by Major Finklemeir, United States Representative at Madagascar, to the queen, at her Capital, Antananarivo, whither he was carried in a sedan chair by sixteen stout negroes, the journey lying through paths in the woods and over mountains, and lasting four days.

Before he entered the city, twelve officers of the Queen in gala uniform and one hundred soldiers, with a band of music, came out and took him into the city. Here he was now entirely useless to its proprietors and the State, while its development would give new life and open up new facilities to every county on the southern border of the State, and great increase the general prosperity of the entire Commonwealth. No man who will study the geography of the State will fail to see that the great mining, agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests of southwestern Pennsylvania most imperatively demand an additional outlet to the seaboard. Why shall the people in this region be compelled to submit to the exactions of those who control the existing thoroughfares, when they are willing with their own means, for their own benefit, to open up another road, which would not benefit the public, but add to the power, population and material wealth of the whole State? The great wealth of our State consists in her natural advantages—in her vast agricultural and mineral resources, and stimulated by liberal railroad privileges, the enterprise of our population would speedily develop her resources, and Pennsylvania, now dwarfed and restricted, would soon become an empire within herself. The truth of this finds an illustration in the beneficial results secured by adjoining States in the passage of a general railroad law, by which full and ample privileges, equal rights, and equal protection in all these matters of public enterprise and improvement.

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Even now the Central Road is the bottleneck of the demands for transit, the bountiful traffic of the Western States; and, already, much of it is driven entirely round Pennsylvania by the Central Ohio, connecting with the Baltimore and Ohio road at Wheeling, and the Lake Shore, as well as by the Atlantic and Great Western Road. Much of this freight and travel would pass over this new route, and every passenger and every ton of freight thus transported would pay some tribute to the State. Is it true that Philadelphia would suffer by this additional road from east to west. It would bring to that city ten-fold more than it would take away, and retrade that might be diverted from it; and by enriching the whole State, would, of course, add to the commerce and material wealth of that city. It is a fact worthy of the attention of those who are so closely guarding the interests of this great city, that the rates of tariff, as before cited, make a discrimination in favor of New York and against Philadelphia of forty-eight cents per hundred weight on her immense quantity of through freight. I assert this as a fact, and defy refutation from any quarter. If this discrimination [Mr. McCandless], or that other gentleman, the Senator from Lancaster [Mr. Fisher] who has just distinguished himself as the special champion of Philadelphia interests, will undertake to explain how this discrimination will enhance the commercial interests of that city, I will cheerfully give way to hear such explanation. They will not attempt it! Now, sir, I have been amused to hear gentlemen upon this floor, who are opposing this bill, talk of the rights of Philadelphia, as if those rights were assailed by a foreign foe. Who, sir, amongst the friends of this bill, propose to inflict an injury upon the people of that city? We yield to no one, not even the gentleman from Lancaster (Mr. Fisher) —in our love for the high-minded, generous, enterprising citizens of the Quaker City. They are a part of our glorious Union, and justly celebrated throughout the world for their fatherly devotion to the cause of human liberty. They are entitled to our consideration, and I think, sir, they will admit that this legislature has always been ready to grant any just legislation for which they have ever asked. Their numerous and varied interests have been carefully watched over, and those who seek that the passage of this bill would be hostile to their best interest, are blinded by a policy far too narrow and selfish to receive the approbation of this people. We are simply asking the completion of this road on the ground that a portion of the western traffic might be diverted from the markets of Philadelphia, should not forget that there are other interests in which the Commonwealth outside the limits of that city, Philadelphia is indeed a great city—the metropolis of the State, but not the State itself.

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I take it, sir, the people of western and southwestern Pennsylvania are as industrious, as enterprising and as loyal, as in any other portion of the State, and I, for one, will not believe that we have taken, discharge our duty as the servants of the people, we cannot disregard their interests—we dare not trample upon their sacred rights. In the consideration of every question of great public interest we are bound to look not at the wants and desires of our own locality, our immediate constituents, but the welfare of the great Commonwealth. I appeal to on this floor knows that the great mass of people in that section of the State are most earnest in this matter, and with one accord, and with but few exceptions, their delegation in Congress implore this Legislature for the passage of this bill. They are justly aroused by a sense of wrong which they have borne until it has become almost unendurable, and they ask relief in silence. They ask not for mercy—they demand simple justice, and sooner or later that demand will be granted. It may not be to-day, or to-morrow, or this year, but it must come soon; the people will arise in their majesty, and so sure as there is justice in heaven the emphatic voice of an outraged people will be heard and respected in these halls of legislation.

Shall we paralyze the energy of the fairest portion of our State and impede the development of its enormous wealth, because, forsooth, a neighboring State will not share with us the benefits arising from a better policy? If we are so contracted in our views as to be unable to look beyond the boundary of our own State, let us at least be consistent. Let this legislature and show our selfish policy by repealing the charter of the Northern Central road and every other road communicating with any of the border States? I trust, sir, that there is far distant when we shall be prepared for this. Every improvement, of whatever character, calculated to expand the wealth and power of one section of the country, will inure to the benefit of all its parts. Any measure that will give a new impulse to the general business and prosperity of our people, will not fall to benefit the States adjoining us. The prosperity of the West will not injure the city of Philadelphia.

We cannot restrict or change the operation of the laws of trade in this respect if we would; we should not do so if we could.

The Senator then considered the legal proceedings in the case, and concluded as follows:

But an appeal has been taken from this decision, and the question will be settled by the courts, and may remain undecided for years to come. In view of all these facts, I cannot agree with those who believe that it would be undignified in the Legislature to pass this bill and thus end the ceaseless litigation; it is never undignified to do right and show fair play.

It has been asserted here that this is a mere contest between two corporations, each striving for exclusive authority to construct the road. This assertion, however plausible it may seem,

HARRISBURG.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.
HARRISBURG, March 27, 1867.

SENATE.

Petitions.

Mr. Bigham—From citizens of Lower St. Clair to divide said township into a new township; also to make a borough out of Brownstown. Mr. Graham, a remonstrance against the same.

Also from citizens of East Deer exempting people who put in substitutes from the bounty tax.

Reports of Committees.

Act to compel the Recorders of Deeds in the Commonwealth to record the discharges of honorably discharged soldiers.

To authorize the purchase of a law library for Allegheny county.

Bills in Place.

Mr. Graham—To open a State road from Allegheny to Washington.

Also, a supplement to the act creating a Board of Publication in Pittsburgh, allowing them to purchase more property.

Mr. Bigham—Act creating a new borough and township out of Lower St. Clair.

The afternoon session was taken up with a registry law, and the law reorganizing the militia of the first district. The Senate refused to exempt Quakers.

HOUSE.

The Appropriation Bill.

The General Appropriation Bill came up on second reading, and was discussed at length. The yeas and nays were taken on a great many sections. The effort to reduce the appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars to members failed.

The special order appropriating four hundred thousand dollars to the citizens of Adams, Franklin, Fulton, Bradford, Perry, York and Cumberland counties for property destroyed by rebel raiders, was considered, and is now under discussion. From a test vote on a section of the bill, the indications are that it will pass. It passed to third reading by 50 yeas to 20 nays. Two-thirds not voting, the rules were not suspended for a final passage.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.
HARRISBURG, March 29, 1867.

SENATE.

Reports of Committees.

To authorize Courts to change the place of holding general elections in certain cases.

Supplement to act regulating Allegheny County Poor-house.

Supplement to an act incorporating Jamestown and Franklin Railroad.

Act for the improvement of Coal Hill, in Collins township.

Repealing an act entering judgments and levying processes in Armstrong county.

Supplement to an act annexing Manchester to Allegheny City.

Bills in Place.

Mr Bigham—Act incorporating the borough of Ormsby.

Supplement to act incorporating the Mechanics' Savings Bank, Pittsburgh.

Bills Passed.

Incorporating the city of Altoona.

Incorporating the Warren and Tidioute Oil Company.

HOUSE.

Appropriation Bill Passed.

The General Appropriation Bill was finally passed in the House. Several attempts were made to amend the fifteen hundred dollars to members, but were voted down. The House finally settled on thirteen hundred dollars. Among the items are: Dixmont Hospital, $175,000, Western House of Refuge, $47,000; Western Penitentiary, 21,000; Soldiers' Home, $15,000, Pittsburgh School of Design, $5,000, Soldiers' Orphans, $15,000. Total, $180,500.

The Calendar Yesterday--Consolidation-Schools of Design--Registry Law--Local Bills in the Senate--Bills in the House--Imprisoning Debtors--Pay of Members--Local Bills in the Senate--Western Penitentiary--Militia Law.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.
HARRISBURG, Wednesday, March 27, 1867.

Judging from the long printed calendar of twelve pages was put through on a jump, and lucky were all such as had sung little "snakes" therein. When the Speaker got out of wind, he called to the Chair Mr. Quay no slow coach in the way of driving the lines, and when he tired the Speaker again took the reins, and so they rushed matters. It was simply a question of how fast the Speaker could speak, and the House respond. To-day the calendar file appears with a six page addition of public bills, for dates of March 27th and 28th.

CONSOLIDATION.

Yesterday the bill providing for the consolidation of the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny and neighboring boroughs, was favorably reported from committee in the Senate, and the bill is now in the printer's hands. It appears now that I was premature in the announcement that there was a general harmony of feeling between Senators Bigham and Graham in regard to this bill. It must be remembered that Senator Graham represents more particularly the city of Allegheny, where the main opposition to this bill exists. His constituency, as he represents, is desirous of such consolidation, but, if effected, should have a right to declare for itself by ballot, whether it will consent to such proposed consolidation. It is also known that a considerable number of the residents on the other side of the Alleghery favor the project of a new county to be formed of a part of Allegheny county and Butler, or the adjoining counties. There is not a favorable look for the passage of this bill at the present session. Yet there can be no harm in having it printed and discussed. I believe that Senator Graham does not differ with Senator Bigham as to the advantages of consolidation, but perhaps does not see such a definite development of public sentiment in the Northwestern part of the county to warrant the urging of the immediate passage of the bill at this time. But the publicity given to the subject during the present session, will do much towards educating the people on the subject, and when the question of favoring a measure which so largely concerns their reputation, social and financial integrity and municipal convenience and economy.

SCHOOLS OF DESIGN.

Professor G. W. Braidwood, President of the Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Wilkesbarre Schools of Design, delivered an interesting and instructive lecture upon the history, achievements, and future purposes of the Pennsylvania Schools of Design, for which an appropriation is named in the appropriation bills now under consideration in the Senate. The principle of purging in the retirement of private life. For a crumb of comfort he is thus thankful:

"You have my cordial thanks for your opinion of the Pennsylvania Legislature, which, blood and sorrow we have endured' rests on me, who tried, in a moment of terrible exigency, to do my duty under the constitution. Proceeding as this does, from a large number of my fellow citizens, equal in intelligence, character and patriotism, to any similar number of gentlemen in the State, may I not, with much confidence, indulge the hope that you but administer the general sentiment of future times!' Under this impression, and always firmly relying on Divine Providence, I have borne with a tranquil and contented spirit all the harsh criticisms which have been published on my official conduct throughout the last unhappy years."

BOURBON FOLLY AND FATE.—It seems as if it were the destiny of the whole Bourbon family to invite and precipitate the open demolition of royalty in its ranks. The Duke of Bordeaux implore this Legislature for the passage of this bill. They are justly aroused by a sense of wrong which they have borne until it has become almost unendurable, and they ask relief in silence. They ask not for mercy—they demand simple justice, and sooner or later that demand will be granted. It may not be to-day, or to-morrow, or this year, but it must come soon; the people will arise in their majesty, and so sure as there is justice in heaven the emphatic voice of an outraged people will be heard and respected in these halls of legislation.

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An Awkward Mistake.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Star* relates an amusing adventure which occurred to a foreign gentleman who received an invitation to the state ball which took place lately at the Tuileries. Being a stranger, he naturally inquired whether any particular dress was required on the occasion, and was told by a functionary that he must appear *en uniforme*, which expression does not alone imply military, naval, or civil costume, but likewise signifies Court dress. The gentleman, not quite sure of the extent of Majesties by the private *entrée*, crowded at that moment by several personages whose dress was in full Court costume, remarked that several amongst them looked at him with an air of surprise, and evidently inquired amongst each other who he was; but he added that they all looked gentlemen and persons of a certain age, he innocently congratulated himself on having evidently done the right thing. A few moments, however, had scarcely elapsed when an official, in a gorgeous scarlet and gold uniform, came up to him, and, in a most polite manner, civilly requested him to follow him into the next room. The fact was, the unfortunate gentleman had furnished himself with a Senator's dress.

The Mormon State.

The constitution of the new State of Deseret, embracing the present Territory of

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1867.

☞ The DAILY COMMERCIAL is circulated in all parts of the State, in Western Virginia, Ohio and the adjacent States, and without comparison, is the best advertising medium in Pittsburgh.

☞ THE COMMERCIAL gives the only complete reports of the local markets published, and is accepted as authority by dealers at home and in all the principal cities.

☞ THE COMMERCIAL is sold everywhere in the city, and by News Dealers at all the principal points. Price five cents a copy.

☞ THE COMMERCIAL solicits local correspondence, giving events of interest, concisely written; also, of improvements, inventions and personal movements.

☞ THE COMMERCIAL is the only paper in Pittsburgh that uses the telegraph freely. Its special dispatches are from correspondents selected for their intelligence and reliability.

SENATOR SHERMAN declared in his place that nobody expects that Congress will meet in July, and that no state of facts can probably arise which will induce the members of both Houses to come back there; if a majority do not, the adjournment till then falls to the ground, and there will be no meeting till December.

PHILADELPHIA AND THE RAILROADS.

Philadelphia is a great and thriving city. One of the journals published in it gives a column to the celebration of its greatness, chiefly for the information and correction of its own citizens who are not aware of the rank of the city nor of the flourishing and lucrative business that is done in it. It is claimed to rank first in the list of American cities, its population being set down, by estimate at 800,000. In the enumeration of its distinguished advantages, we were not a little surprised to find named first its superior advantages for medical education. The cultivation of the fine arts is named next, and then its varied and extensive manufactures. The coal trade also is very large. Other things are named among the means of the city's growth, and the fact that it does grow is insisted on as proof that business is done there and done to profit.

A bare allusion to investments in Railroads informs the reader that such an institution exists and connects the city with the outside world. But there is no intimation of any desire for more of that sort of connection, nor apparent sense of the want of it experienced. It is evident that the action and non-action of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, if known in Philadelphia at all, do not excite the degree or kind of sensation that they do in Pittsburgh, though our city is 150 miles further from the capital. Whether from inadvertence or design, the article, celebrating the greatness of Philadelphia, is singularly silent as to the influence of Railroad connection with the West in advancing the growth and prosperity of our Eastern metropolis. In fact, we cannot but be surprised, as we said a few days ago, that the shrewdness and sagacity of our Philadelphia friends do not perceive the damage they are doing themselves by opposing a free Railroad law, and thus favoring a rigid embargo on the trade from the West that is seeking modes of approach to their city. Another and an independent line of communication would largely increase the business of Philadelphia.

COMING RIGHT.

Whatever the motive, it is pretty evident that the Southern people will go promptly into the process for reconstruction, that is prescribed by the law of Congress. They seem disposed to put it upon the ground of submission to necessity, or, of taking of two unwelcome things that which is least offensive to them. Indeed this is not only the best thing that they could do for themselves under the circumstances, but it is all that we, on our part, could reasonably expect of them. Immediately after such array of active hostility as we have had for some years, and after the intense excitement of passions, it would be absurd to expect any measures that would comport with the demands of the occasion, in the estimation of the victorious party, to be agreeable to the vanquished.

Submission in the form and obedience to law in the act are all that civil government demands, and all that it takes cognizance of while this is maintained. Experience and the intercourse of society and business, with the aid of *time*, the great healer, will effect changes in the feelings, passions and principles, so that what was at first a submission to necessity will become a matter of preference and choice. It is utterly nugatory to talk of everlasting hatred grounded on one past cause, if there be no present cause operating to produce or cherish it. No such occasion of irritation exists to threaten coolness, alienation or discord between the Southern and other sections of this country. The allusion sometimes made to Ireland in this connection, betray as much ignorance of history as of human nature. The only cause of trouble between the sections of our country was slavery, and that is out of the way forever. The unequal legislation, the re-trictions on manufactures and commerce, and the social effects justly attributable to slavery, will gradually disappear with the occasion of them, and will exist only as things remembered, as things belonging to a former age. The Irish animosity to the English Government has its wrongs, or, which for our argument is the same thing, imagines them to be actually present, and corroding now the very life of Ireland's happiness. The difference of religion gives a present vitality and vigor to the old hatred. Where that difference does not exist, the ancient antipathy has long since died out. No such difference, nor any other that has been imagined, will exist to keep life and strength in sectional enmities in our country. Homogeneity will follow the removal of the great divider of past times, and with homogeneity will come perpetual peace and good feeling.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.

A few days ago our Harrisburg correspondent made the remark, if the COMMERCIAL had anything to offer for or against the suggestion of a Convention to revise the Constitution of the State, there were those who would be glad to hear it.

We have a good many times specified abuses that need reforming and that can be reformed only by revising the Constitution. But that is not the question: for indeed, there can be no question at all about abuses and the urgency in favor of reform;—but there is a question in the case, and one which involves so grave a doubt that we hesitate to proceed a step before it is disposed of. It is this: What assurance have we that a Constitutional Convention would mend and not make affairs worse than they now are? This question appears to be entirely legitimate, for it was only last fall that the people with one accord proclaimed for a General Railroad Law, and chose a legislature in which there was not known to be a single opponent. But it has turned out that there is not the ghost of a chance for such a law, and that the Legislature is controlled in the interest of some power superior to the people. Now what guaranty have we that a State Convention elected within this or the following year would be better than the Legislature, or that in the end, we would not esteem it a fortunate deliverance if affairs were not made worse than they were before reform was attempted? It seems to us that circumstances admonish us to hesitate, lest, in attempting to obtain relief from those ills we now have we bring upon us others that are worse.

At present we purpose not to discuss the general question of constitutional reform. The necessity for it is clear to the mind of every intelligent observer, but not more so, we think, than the danger there would be in attempting the work at this time, or so long as there exists in the State a power superior to any body of men likely to be chosen.

We should be glad to know that we have not taken the right view of the question—that our apprehensions are groundless, and that this is the favorable time for undertaking the labor of constitutional reform. Viewing the question from the standpoint of passing events, we have simply made a suggestion, which to us appears well-nigh fatal to a Constitutional Convention before the people, through long suffering, are prepared to be their own masters, and do the work thoroughly. The reader will readily follow it up in his own mind.

THE disposition to economize is exerting a visible effect on the community. It does, undoubtedly, for a time, diminish the amount of trade and business, but in the end its consequences on general prosperity will undoubtedly be beneficial. Were the same disposition to take possession of the National and State and Municipal Governments throughout the country, and we imagine that to some extent it has, the financial and business prospects of the times would be bright and cheering.

The true doctrine, which we have often advocated, with reference to the old national debt, is approved by practical results. Its gradual and easy melting away, under the operation of *moderate* taxes and *rigid* economy is as certain as the melting and disappearance of the iceberg floating into temperate seas. The only danger is, that additions will be made to it by unwise or unseasonable appropriations. There are projects of improvements that may prove only vast expenditures. And there is a pent-up ocean of claims ready to burst forth on the first favoring moment and sweep away continents of treasure. We hope the debt will not only be kept in manageable compass by the steady appropriation of taxes to the purpose, but also that it will not be increased by a single dollar of unnecessary outlay.

WHETHER MAXIMILIAN will abdicate and retire from Mexico or not, is a question that has been debated so long and decided both positively and negatively so often, that it now fails to excite any interest in the public mind of the United States, and little is said or thought on the subject. Failing ourselves to effect any improvement in the situation, either by our advice or more potent means, we appear, by common consent, to have lost interest in the case, and have left the Mexicans to be governed by Emperor, Church, Republic or Army, as they see fit. But from present appearances, the question of leaving Mexico is not left now entirely to the Emperor's own option, as the last accounts represent him to be shut up in Queretaro, with only 8,000 men in his force, while the besieging army of Liberals under ESCOBEDO amounts to 20,000. If this be so, the question of abdication probably appears, to his own view, to be cumbered with new perplexities.

THE impeachment scheme drags slowly. It is reported that the Committee will spend the vacation in carrying it forward. It looks to us, as though an impeachment that requires a whole year's search, inquiry and perhaps invention, to discover the occasion for it, might be suffered to pass altogether, without any serious detriment to either the Republic or its faithful guardian, the Republican party. If there was need for the movement when it was initiated, it must have been in consequence of great wrong committed, or imminent danger threatening the country, the blame of which was chargeable on the President. If these were seen to be formidable enough to justify the beginning of the process, how can it require such protracted efforts to state and embody them in legal forms for application?

THE Union Congressional Republican Committee, appointed with particular reference to the South, have organized by electing Senator MORGAN Chairman, with the following Executive Committee: Hon. ROBERT SCHENCK, of Ohio, Chairman; and Hon. J. M. BROOMAL, of Pennsylvania; J. CHANDLER, of Michigan; JOHN CONNESS, of California; OAKES AMES, of Massachusetts; JOHN A. LOGAN, of Illinois, and WM. D. KELLEY, of Pennsylvania. Hon. THOS. L. TULLOCK was elected Secretary, and W. S. HUNTINGTON, Esq., Treasurer.

WHILE the press of the country warmly approves of the acquisition—by gift almost—of the Russian Possessions in North America, the report comes from Washington that the treaty may be rejected by the Senate. The reasons for the rejection are not set forth, and it is difficult to perceive the statesmanship that would counsel such a course. The value of the acquisition is not to be found in the productions of the country, but in its political importance, and it is from this stand-point should the question be viewed.

THE small coin, now quite plenty, has greatly diminished and will ere long entirely supercede the small paper currency. It circulates freely, few persons being so distrustful of the future as to hoard copper and nickel. The experiment that has succeeded so well thus far might safely be applied to dimes, and then we could get along swimmingly in the matter of change, till the good days when our eyes shall greet the almost forgotten face of gold and silver coinage.

THE offer of loans to the State in large excess above the amount called for, gives one a good impression of the financial credit of the State and also of the condition of monetary affairs in the country. The National Treasury statement for March deepens this impression and extends it to the whole country.

ONLY A LITTLE MOSS.—All happiness and satisfaction are comparative. Thus, a Brooklynite thinks New York water wretched, and a Bostonian considers Brooklyn water vile; while the New Yorker, in his turn, regards most Western waters with horror and loathing, and Westerners, of even the most powerful stomachic organization, have always agreed that Chicago was ahead of all rivalry in the way of aqueous abomination. But the Chicagoians will say: "Nous avons change tout cela." Well, measurably they have. They no longer find fish and snakes in their water pitchers and fragments of dead bodies in their service pipes. The water they get now through the tunnel must be a wonderful change to them; but how would the people of the Eastern cities like to find "little pieces of vegetable matter" floating in the crystal draughts they take so copiously? True, the Chicago papers declare there is nothing harmful or unpleasant in these particles, and this is a very gratifying piece of intelligence; still, a species of cold broth of this kind would scarcely go down and be delighted in anywhere else than in Chicago.

THE authorities at Niagara, on the Canada side, have adopted regulations for the protection of visitors from the extortions of drivers, guides, curiosity venders, and all the hosts and varieties of leeches that attach themselves to strangers, at that locality. Similar arrangements should be enforced on the American side. Bills are posted warning strangers of the abuses and cheats that they are exposed to. But the authorities should see that they are prevented. Travelers often stop for a few hours, from train to train, and wishing to see all they can in the short time, are only disturbed by suspicions in consequence of these cautions, without the means of profiting by them, and forbear to trust any of the offering hackmen and guides, thus losing, in a great measure, the object of their stopping. The reputation of the place is damaged by the grossest impositions of the classes of persons referred to. It is for the interest of the citizens to protect it.

CHECK TO EMIGRATION.—The new order of things in Germany, brought about by the late campaign and the resultant aggrandizement of Russia, will place a serious check upon the stream of emigration that for years has poured in the direction of the United States. Bismark's new plan of military organization renders it almost impossible for young men to leave the Fatherland in search of fortune on a foreign shore. They all have to serve twelve years in the regular army, and will not be furnished with passports to travel anywhere with, out entering into heavy recognizances for their return. Formerly they could get passports for the free cities of Hamburg and Bremen, and thence embark for America, but the new dispensation has changed all that.

THE MAD DOG MANIA.—The mad dog mania has broken out in Memphis, in consequence of one or two children having been bitten by animals supposed to be suffering from hydrophobia. We suppose there will be foolish people there, as in Chicago and Indianapolis, who will advocate immediate canine extermination.

Our Business Hours.

We observe with great pleasure, that the Courts of this county have taken the initiative in a movement long needed, and which we predict will be attended with much good, towards shorter hours and the more speedy dispatch of business during those hours. Under the new arrangement, the Courts will hereafter hold their sessions from 10 A. M. till 3 P. M., without interruption. This change has been made at the special instance of the Bar, who joined with unexampled unanimity in a memorial to the Courts, praying for this order; and we feel satisfied that the public will readily acquiese in it, as it is plain that they are to be largely the gainers by it. Persons who have business in the Courts, either from choice or necessity, will not now be condemned to give the entire day, from daylight to dark, but will have a portion of the day to themselves. Those who reside at a short distance from the town can now go and return each day, and the jurors and witnesses, whose compensation is so limited, can go home each evening instead of being taxed to a greater amount than their pay by being compelled from the late hours heretofore in vogue, to remain at a hotel in the city. Indeed this system now places the resident of almost any portion of the county contiguous to a railroad, so far as attendance upon the courts is concerned, upon the same footing as the now favored inhabitant of the city.

In addition to this, it is a move in a metropolitan direction, and while we do not desire to imitate the vices of the larger cities, we do wish to emulate their business arrangements, tending as they do to the comfort and convenience of all concerned. The Banks of the country have long adopted, and so far as we know, without complaint, the single continuous day of short hours, and we do not see why Pittsburgh, amongst the business men, cannot also do the day's work between 9 and 5, or 10 and 4, as it is done in most of the other cities of the country, instead of having it interrupted by a dinner hour, which varies according to business or caprice, from 12 until two-thirty, and which thus compels us to drag the day out until long after dark—a weary day—during which no more has been accomplished than could readily have been done, if with one accord we had given it our close and uninterrupted attention for fewer hours.

Time is thus gained for recreation—for improvement—for every description of mental and physical culture,—and nothing is lost in a financial or business point of view. With gigantic strides our city is advancing in wealth, population, enterprise and business importance, and co-equal with this should be her onward march in civilization and refinement. It should no longer be sneeringly said that "Pittsburgh is a good workshop but not fit to live in." With environs of unrivalled beauty and fertility, dotted with thousands of lovely and comfortable houses, our people should be allowed some portion of the day to enjoy the surroundings of our wealth-giving city, and this we believe can be materially promoted by the adoption of the business hours which have been so long and so successfully employed in other places.

IN the House of Representatives, a few days ago, Gen. Butler charged President Johnson with having, on the recommendation of a Democratic candidate for Congress, pardoned one hundred and ninety-three West Virginian deserters just before the election, so as to enable them to vote the Democratic ticket. It now seems to be satisfactorily proved that no such recommendation was made, and that the soldiers in question were not released until nearly a month after the election. The penalties they were supposed to have incurred were remitted on satisfactory proof being had that they were no deserters at all. The Surgeon-in-chief of the division to which they belonged certified that they were unavoidably separated from the commands to which they severally belonged, and, while absent, were technically registered as deserters; but that they returned at the earliest opportunity and fought gallantly to the end of the war. On his representation, indorsed by the War Department, the men were restored to the full possession of rights which they had never really forfeited. Gen. Butler was mistaken.

SIMPLICITY OVERDONE.—Republican simplicity is a very excellent thing in its way, but it is a virtue that may be carried to extremes. George Washington was none the less true to the institutions of the country because he was scrupulously exact in the matter of costume on all occasions connected with affairs of State. Mr. Seward appears to be rather recklessly indifferent on matters of the kind. He seems to consider his old pepper and salt suit and a shirt and collar that always look guiltless of starch or smoothing iron a sufficiently becoming dress to wear at any time. He slightly astonished the nerves of the new Spanish minister by accompanying that punctilious hidalgo thus clad to the White House for the purpose of introducing him to the President. He further outraged Spanish ideas of etiquette by inviting to a seat in the same carriage the doorkeeper of his apartments. This kind of disregard for conventionalities may be calculated to have a favorable effect on the minds of foreign diplomatists, but we have some lingering doubts upon the subject.

A SLAP AT RUSSIA.—Things are working in Europe. Governments there are constantly showing that although far behind the *onward progre*, which has almost always been the certain presage of war. Austria, usually so particular in details of diplomatic courtesy, is becoming almost aggressive. The Emperor, we are told, has just re-established the Polish language for the study of law at Lemberg. All the examinations will be made in the same language. Now, this is a direct slap in the Czar's face and a side thrust at Prussia. The former, by ukase and bayonet, has abolished the Polish tongue in his portion of that unhappy country, while Prussia, by persuasion rather than force, has been trying Germanization upon the share that fell to her at the partition. Poland may yet owe regeneration and independence to despotic, reactionary Austria.

NEW YORK has entered in earnest on the work of Constitutional reform. The choice of delegates will take place on the 23d inst. Precautions have been taken to secure a convention composed of good men, as free as possible from control by any particular interest. In addition to the thirty-two delegates at large, each Senatorial district will elect four delegates for itself; so that the whole number of the delegates to the Convention will be one hundred and sixty. In regard to the thirty-two delegates at large, it is provided that no elector shall vote for more than sixteen—thereby insuring an equal division between the two great parties—sixteen to represent the Republicans and sixteen the Democrats.

THE SLICE.—The boundary of the territory which Russia proposes to cede to the United States begins on the coast at fifty-four degrees forty minutes, runs inland ten marine leagues, follows at that distance from the coast northwardly to the hundred and forty-first meridian; thence on that meridian to the pole; thence southwardly following the main channel through Behring Straits, between St. Lawrence Island and Asia; thence southwardly to the western island of the Aliution chain; thence southeastwardly to the place of beginning. All islands within these lines are ceded to the United States.

THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE.—One after another the most prominent among the late rebel Generals are expressing their opinions upon the political situation, and all of them take a practical and common sense view of affairs. The latest heard from is Beauregard. He says, there are but two things for the South to do in the present emergency—one being to accept the proposition offered by Congress, and the other to make forcible resistance. The latter alternative he considers out of the question and he therefore counsels speedy adoption of the former. Pierre Toutant has improved since he issued that silly order of his from Corinth.

FIRST RATE TITLE.—To a certain class of unpatriotic, unscrupulous female misrepresentatives of the United States in Europe, there has been given a name which would ensure the popularity of a book or play. They are known as "The Title Hunters of America," and the sole apparent object of their lives appears to be to catch husbands, who have handles to their names. They are delighted with a Baron, overjoyed with a Count, extacized with a Marquis, and fairly driven out of what little senses they have at prospect of a Duke. They generally come to grief and repentance in the end.

THREE large steamers, all from Liverpool, have arrived at Boston with full cargoes of merchandise, principally dry goods, which seems like carrying coals to New Castle, our market being already glutted. If these excessive imports do not create considerable financial embarrassment on the other side of the water in the course of a few months, manufacturers there must be much stronger in resources than they have the credit of by our manufacturers. Did our foreign friends but know it they could, at present prices, send us flour at a profit. Some such thing seems necessary to take the starch out of speculators here.

SUNDAY WILLS.—Wills made on Sunday are to all interests and purposes as valid as if executed on any other day of the week. At least so the New Hampshire Courts have decided.

THE UNKINDEST CUT OF ALL.—President Johnson is being assailed savagely all around. It was bad enough to be first pitched into by the radical papers, then by the most respectable of the Conservatives, and next by Democrats with disappointed expectations; but how much more painful it must be to find the Southern press, which he has done so much to conciliate, turning against him. The Macon, Georgia, *Journal and Messenger*, for instance, cruelly says of him: "He has done us an immense deal of harm; crippled us when our armies were in the field; rejected the terms which Grant and Sherman gave us, and then, at last, has kept sectional hate and animosity stirred up against us by his unwise course and his foolish conflict with Congress and Northern sentiment."

THE TABLES TURNED.—Wade Hampton, of South Carolina, once master of a thousand human chattels, not one of whom had any rights that a white man was bound to respect, in his speech the other day accepting the altered situation, unnecessarily humiliated himself. He said to his former bondsmen, "I am no longer a citizen of the United States or of South Carolina. The bill which gives you the right of suffrage disfranchises me. I have not even a home here; for my home and the homes of all who bore my name have been laid in ashes. I have no political rights whatever." What an eloquent yet pitiful commentary on the consequences of wicked, gratuitous treason and rebellion.

BRIGAND HUNTING.—A novel and exhilerating species of chase has just been inaugurated in Italy. The Government has resolved to rid the country of its greatest pest—brigandage, and to accomplish this, not only are the mountains to be scoured by numerous detachments of chasseurs, but the further inducement of pecuniary reward is offered in the hope of getting the peasantry to capture or betray the robbers instead of harboring them as has been the custom hitherto. Twelve hundred dollars is offered for the leader of any band, dead or alive, and six hundred dollars each for his followers. The temptation is great in a country where the former sum is regarded as a splendid fortune.

ORIGIN OF THE TREATY.—The origin of the Treaty lately entered into between the Government of Russia and the Administration of the United States may perhaps be traced to a comparatively humble source. It seems that about a year ago the Legislative Assembly of Washington Territory petitioned the President to obtain, if possible, from the Russian Government certain privileges that would facilitate the operations of our fishermen on the Pacific coast. The State Department no doubt opened negociations on the subject, and the supposition is that, in the course of them, the offer to sell was made which forms the basis of the Treaty.

A STRICT CONSTRUCTIONIST.—A New York correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* is aggrieved at having his correct Italian slaughtered by ruthless printers and proof readers. In a previous communication he had spoken of Maretzek's *prime donne*. It was set up *prima donnas*. Hence his wrathful anguish. Little matters of this kind do contain an awful amount of aggravation to minds that like to be particular and fastidiously correct; still, they are not worth making a quarter of a column of fuss about.

DEFICIENCY SUPPLIED.—It has been our national boast that we had the biggest rivers, lakes, cataracts, and other geographical features in this country that could be found elsewhere in the world; but we had to be comparatively modest on the subject of mountains. Our acquisition of the Russian Possessions will supply this deficiency. There is a mountain there called St. Elins, which is eighteen thousand feet above the level of the sea, or four thousand feet higher than Mount Blanc. Moreover its ascent is much more dangerous and exciting.

MR. WRED, in the *N. Y. Commercial*, says that in former times the suspicion of dishonesty on the part of a member of the Legislature would destroy him in the estimation of his associates and with the people; but times have changed, we are assured, and "so long as a member of the Legislature can take bribes without losing his character and his seat, bribery will increase until dishonesty—as is alleged even now, of the Assembly—becomes the rule instead of the exception. Watchfulness among the constituencies, therefore, should be awakened and stimulated."

AN ANGRY EMPEROR.—It is said that the recent prosecution of Emile de Girardin, for an article written by him in his newspaper, *La Liberte*, was ordered by the Emperor Napoleon personally, and in a tremendous rage. His most influential ministers represented to him that just now, when large promises of greater liberty have been made, and a new press law is on the stocks, it might be better policy to wink at this offense. The Emperor peremptorily told them to go on.

SYMPATHY WITH REBELLION.—Mr. Banks's resolution in the House of Representatives, committing Congress to an expression of sympathy with "the people of Ireland and Candia, in all their just efforts to maintain the independence of States," does not seem to meet with special favor. The fact is the people of the North hold somewhat different views on the subject of insurrection and rebellion to those which prevailed among them previous to our own civil war.

IT is reported that Mr. McCulloch has determined not to retire the four millions of greenbacks for the month of March; and it is also reported that the public debt for the month will show a reduction of from seventeen to twenty millions of dollars, and that of the balance in the Treasury one hundred and fourteen millions of dollars is in gold, an increase of coin during the month of about seven millions. These reports, if true, ought to tell favorably on the stock market, and especially on the prices of Government securities.

AFTER all the croaking, the reports of failure by flood, frost and worm, the cotton crop in the South last year was fully two millions of bales, and the prospect was that the next one will be much in excess of this. Besides this, the corn crop and the sugar product will be still more in excess of last year—all elements that will play an important part in whatever estimates are made touching the future,—saying nothing of the present prospect of the most bountiful crop of everything in the North we have ever had.

ASSIMILATING CURRENCY.—The governments of France and several other European countries have been negotiating for an international assimilation of their various currencies, so as to bring them all to one standard and simplify the process of exchange. The movement does not meet with the success that was expected. Russia "declines to adhere" to it, and the Austrian government declares indefinitely that it will "take the subject into consideration."

"OLD DRURY."—One of the most absurd conventional phrases that occurs in the most conventional corner of a newspaper—the stereotyped amusement department—is the term of "Old Drury," as applied to the most ancient theatre in every city that can boast of a building of the kind. The latest instance of its absurd misapplication we find in a leading Cincinnati journal, which calls the National there "Old Drury." Wonder how "old" it is?

LETTER writers say that the condition of the Princess of Wales has filled the royal family with alarm and overshadowed it with gloom. The Prince, who is said to be an affectionate husband, is represented as "almost frantic at the prospect." A little while ago she gave birth to a child, and the exhaustion which followed, combined with the acute pain she continues to suffer, have occasioned the greatest anxiety.

A WISE PROVISION.—Experimental liquor laws seem to be the legislative rage just now. All manner of provisions are being tried, and it is to be hoped that something comprehensive and satisfactory will be the final result. The new Rhode Island license act, for instance, forbids sales to females, on the ground that many drunken and brutal husbands and fathers compel their wives and daughters to buy liquor when they cannot procure it themselves.

DESTITUTION IN TENNESSEE.—Major General Thomas says, in a letter to Mr. Harrison, of Chicago, that the citizens of several counties in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia, are in a condition of utter destitution; that unless relief is extended to them they must starve. What has been done on the subject in Pittsburgh? We made a suggestion about raising money, but it was not deemed proper. Has no one another to make?

THE praiseworthy attempt of the Wisconsin Legislature to improve the orthography of its Solons by presenting each one with a copy of Webster's Dictionary, at the expense of the State, has been defeated. Their letter-writing propensities, however, have been largely provided for by an appropriation of $25 per head for "postage stamps," in addition to the $50 already allowed.

DODGING.—The vote of the eight hour law in the Massachusetts Legislature last week was dodged by one hundred and thirty-three members. They evidently couldn't decide which it was the least evil to risk the loss of—the workingmen's votes or the manufacturers's influence.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

A person who has arrived in Chicago, direct from the Straits of Mackinac, reports that the ice in the Straits is thick and firm, and that teams are crossing daily from Beaver Island and Little Traverse. It is thought that navigation will open much later than usual.

The citizens of St. Louis are moving in the matter of rebuilding the Lindell Hotel, and steps have been taken to devise the means.

Twelve thousand dollars in money and food has been raised by the St. Louis Merchant's Exchange to relieve the destitute in the South.

The good prospects for the next fruit and grain crop continues to be reported in all quarters.

The Collector's Office of Internal Revenue of the First District of Pennsylvania has become so demoralized and "loose" that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company asked the Treasury Department if it would be safe to pay its monthly tax to the acting Collector. The company was instructed not to pay it at present.

The Sioux and Cheyenne warriors have their war paint on, and their tomahawks and scalping knives handy.

The Pope has recently canonized two hundred and fifty Japanese martyrs who were put to death between 1617 and 1622.

The McKinney (Texas) *Enquirer* has in its office a kitten with two heads, two ears, four legs and two mouths.

The Lynchburg *News* estimates that in the counties of Halifax, Pittsylvania, Franklin and Henry, in Virginia, and Rockingham and Caswell, in North Carolina, the tobacco now on hand is worth $12,000,000.

The Baptists are to have a great gathering in Chicago on May 22.

Icebergs have made their appearance pretty early on the coast, and several homeward-bound vessels have experienced some difficulty in avoiding them.

A mineral has been discovered in Italy which threatens to prove a formidable rival to petroleum. It is called "tioccolina," and is produced at a place named Tocco Casawria, near Pescara, in the southern Neapolitan provinces.

An American circus company, under the management of Spalding, Rogers & Co., and embracing several leading stars of the profession, sailed from New York on Saturday on the steamship Guiding Star, with the intention of performing in Paris during the Exposition.

Two curious relics were lately exhibited during a lecture on "The English Bible" at Morton, England. One was a copy of Tindal's Bible, which had been in the same family for above 300 years; the other a copy of the "Breeches Bible," which was formerly the property of John Wesley, and was saved from the fire at Epworth at the same time that Wesley himself was rescued.

At Jerusalem, Yates county, Illinois, while two boys were rehearsing the tragedy of Lincoln and Booth for a school exhibition, the revolver used by the boy Booth unfortunately had a ball in it, which passed through the cheek of the latter, flattening itself against a molar without, however, even breaking it.

A little girl, daughter of W. Bankshaw, died suddenly in Chicago on Sunday night—said to have been whipped to death by her father. The body of the poor child when examined was found to be literally cut to pieces, the fiendish punishment which caused her death having apparently been inflicted with a leather strap or heavy raw hide.

Has anybody a nickel penny of 1858? The Washington *Star* says there's an active search for them, and that they are considered worth twenty-five cents each, because they have been almost wholly withdrawn from circulation, and will be very valuable by and-by in collecting collections. The penny in question will be remembered as bearing on one face the representation of a nondescript broken-backed bird, supposed to represent the American eagle.

It is expected that the Welland canal will open about the middle of April.

The Legislature of Alabama has just created a new county and named it "Dixie."

Strawberries, grown in the open air, were selling at San Francisco on the 14th of last month, at 75 cents a quart.

The negroes voted at a local election in Jacksborough, Campbell county, Tennessee, on the 21st ult. They were the first votes cast by colored voters in that State since 1834.

The Charleston, South Carolina, *News* announces the arrival at that port of the celebrated entter Harriet Lane. She was recovered from the wreck of the Confederacy at Havana. She is in charge of the officer who first commanded her.

March had only three sunshiny days at Nashville. The month came in rainy and went out with rain.

A British association for exploring Palestine has discovered what is supposed to be the remains of the synagogue of Capernaum. This will be the only building in which the Savior was when on earth which can be identified at this day.

The grasshoppers are beginning to give the people of Western Texas some uneasiness. The San Antonio *Herald* says that the young insects have appeared in that vicinity—"myriads upon myriads of them."

Natchez sends a saddle to Paris made of Mississippi leopard and native rattlesnake skins.

An incautious individual at Terre Haute, the other day, after smoking, put his pipe in his pocket with a package of powder. He was seen, shortly after, looking a good deal surprised, and inquiring for his coat-tail, and a large piece of his pantaloons.

The Mound City *Journal* talks thus complacently of the inundation: How we pity those people living in towns with muddy streets. They cannot step out without getting spattered from head to foot. In this town we have only to step into our pretty little boats and go around to suit ourselves, and the polish of our boots remains untarnished.

There are doubtless, says the Galveston (Texas) *Civilian and Gazette*, more than 5,000,000 head of meat cattle in Texas.

Three men, named Tally, Brooks and Easton, murdered an old woman at Clear Springs, Indiana, some time since. On Saturday evening a number of the citizens of Mowrystown, where the prisoners were confined, broke open the jail, took them out and lynched them. Brooks begged piteously for his life, but Tally died with extraordinary fortitude. He very coolly objected to the noose which the mob had selected. He pointed to one near by, saying it was a much better tree, as its projecting limbs would allow their bodies to swing clear of the body of the tree. He also tied the rope around his own neck and himself kicked away the barrel on which he was standing.

The fact of next year being a "leap year," has added £13,000 to the British military estimates. This is one day's pay for the forces.

A plantation of some fifteen hundred or two thousand acres, in Wilcox county, Alabama, which produced, before the war, from 8,000 to 10,000 bushels of corn, and from 350 to 500 bales of cotton, rented, last week, for one hundred and thirty dollars.

STATE ITEMS.

Messrs. Bliss & Nicholas have retired from the Crawford *Journal*, and are succeeded by Messrs. Thomas McKean and R. C. Frey, late of the Mercer county press. The retiring proprietors were able journalists.

WM. J. CRANS, assistant internal revenue collector for the Fourth District, died suddenly in Philadelphia on Thursday, from heart disease. Deceased was formerly a prominent Democratic politician, and was a member of the Legislature during the buckshot war. He had reached the age of sixty years.

The city of Erie has been districted into seven free letter delivery districts, and the new system went into operation in that city yesterday.

Mr. Stephen Fish, a resident of Connaut township, Crawford county, died on the 28th ult., in the 84th year of his age. He was among the first settlers in that section, living upon the farm on which he died since 1816. As a land agent and surveyor he was widely known, and leaves a large circle of friends to mourn his death.

The *Miners' Journal* says the salary of the Schuylkill County Treasurer for the three years last past amounted to over $50,000! The salary of the Bucks County Treasurer, according to the *Intelligencer's* estimate, was over $7,000 last year! The editor of the *Journal* says the members of the Legislature consider it "indelicate" to reduce these salaries by special legislation.

The following from the Venango *Spectator* is hard on Oil City, in view of their efforts to secure the removal of the county set from Franklin: "Ristori, the great tragedienne, will not show in Oil City. In her letter to the President of the base ball club, she says: 'I sal not ave ze plaisir to give my grand performance in ze Oil City. Ze place is too small and ze troupe nevair performs wizout de county seat is in ze town.'"

The name of Good Templar Lodge in Titusville has been changed from *Washington* to *Sagamatha*, the former being the name adopted by the first Lodge organized in this State. *Sagamatha* was the Indian name of Red Jacket, the illustrious chief of the Senecas. It signifies, says the *Herald*, "ever awake," "vigilant."

Mr Charles Penn, aged about fifty-one years, and at present an inmate in the Berks county alms house, is desirous of hearing something about his surviving relatives. He remembers being in the orphan asylum, at Philadelphia, from 1815 to 1825. In 1826 he entered the Berks county poor house, and a year later was bound out from there to John Hartman, residing near Solomon's Temple, in that county.

A stringent law against prize fighting has been passed by the Pennsylvania Legislature. It makes the penalty for engaging in a prize fight, or taking part as second or bottle-holder, a fine of not more than $1,000, and solitary imprisonment not exceeding two years. Every person being present at such a fight, and encouraging the same, or laying any bet or wager on the result thereof, whether present or not, shall be considered a participant therein, and as giving encouragement thereto, and may, at the discretion of the court, be punished in like manner.

PERSONAL.

—Gen. Banks has been added to the party, which, with the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, at its head, is going to make the tour of the Holy Land. Who shall be the Chancer of this modern band of palmers.

—Hart L. Stewart, the party of the uxorial part to the late scandulous divorce case in Chicago, was advertised to lecture last evening at Crosby's Opera House. Subject: "Principle and Policy."

—E. P. Whipple has written, at the request of Mr. Fields, an essay on Dickens, which will probably appear in the next number of the *Atlantic*.

—Ananias William James Andrew Jackson Jones is a registered colored voter in Washington. Phœbus, what a name!

—Richard Cobden's political writings, largely free trade, are to be published in two volumes, and the American edition will have William Cullen Bryant as editor.

—The Countess Guiccioli, the friend of Lord Byron, and the widow of the eccentric Marquis de Boissy, to whom she was married in 1818, is said to be quite ill.

—W. W. Thayer, recently editor of the Boston *Right Way*, has become editor of the North Missouri *Courier*, at Hannibal, Mo.

—James L. Stewart, formerly a member of Congress from Georgia, is the first petitioner for relief from the disability imposed by the third section of the impending Constitutional Amendment.

—Three years ago the Duke of Wellington had an income of $750,000 a year. By reckless dissipation and profligacy of every conceivable kind he has reduced it to about $7,500, and is now the poorest man of his rank in Europe. He is distantly related to the Emperor Napoleon, and is married to one of the most beautiful women of the day.

—Andy McKee, a clog-dancer, and "Candy" Clark, a well-known railroader, had an unfriendly discussion in a saloon, in Louisville, on Sunday, in course of which some hard knocks were exchanged. The cloggist thinking that he would like to taste a piece of "Candy," bit off a mouthful of his antagonist's nose.

—The Russian Prince Mirofan Meschtschenski was recently tried at Moscow for theft. A year ago he was imprisoned for insulting a policeman, and was placed in the cell with a drunken woman. When she became sober and was released, she missed three silver images. The Prince confessed that he had taken them, and pawned them to a Hebrew in order to get something to eat. The princely profession must be at rather a low ebb in Russia.

—The Boston friends of Daniel McFarland, who shot Albert D. Richardson, at New York, on the 14th, for too great intimacy with his wife, are taking up the cudgel in his defence. They say that a letter from Richardson to Mrs. McFarland was intercepted, and disclosed the full extent of their crimes, and that this letter was the cause of the shooting.

—Mustapha Pasha is a great favorite in Paris, where he spends about 80,000 francs a week. He is said to be a polished gentleman, and an accomplished man of the world.

—The French papers tell a story about Victor Emanuel. He was driving down to his hunting seat at Mandria, near Turin, on the 6th ult., when his carriage was stopped by footpads, who levied black mail from the Ra Galantuomo. He had an escort, but his horses being fast trotters, had left the hunting carriage and the carbineers a long way behind, and when they came up the gentlemen of the highway had got clear of.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson lectured more than forty times during the past season.

—At a late ball at the Tuileries the Russian Princess Kimsky Korsakow wore a dress the material of which was completely invisible, so closely was it covered with fresh hot-house roses and diamonds.

—Mendelssohn means "son of an almond;" Rothschild means "red shield;" Rothermel, "red sleeve;" Laudenslager, "lute player;" Offenbach, "open brook."

—A gossiping letter writer says that the father of Mrs. D. P. Bowers, the actress, was a Methodist minister, who married twice. The children by his first wife remained staid and orthodox, while four of those by his second took to the stage. The correspondent also says that Mrs. Bowers has had three husbands—the gentleman whose name she now bears on the theater bills, Mr. Brown, a distinguished chemist of Philadelphia, and Mr. J. C. McCollom, whose wife she was. We do not think she was ever married to Mr. —, or, as he was usually called, "Dr." — Brown.

—Mrs. McFarland, one of the parties interested in the late shooting case in New York, is the author of many of those excellent stories for children, which have embellished the pages of the *Riverside Magazine*. She is also a regular contributor to the *Tribune* and *Independent*.

—King Victor has decorated Mr. James Geddes May, of New York City, with the cross of the order of St. Maurice and St.

APRIL.

I hear through all the solemn pines
The south wind's pleasant flow,
And see the clouds, like the happy things,
Over fields of azure go.
While all the sorrow from the earth
Seems melting with the snow.

The robin and the bluebird sing
O'er meadows brown and bare;
They can not know what wondrous bloom
Is softly budding there;
But all the joy their hearts outpour
Seems pulsing in the air.

And we will sing, though all our days
Seem dark with pain and loss;
We know that Sorrow's furnace heat
Consumes alone our dross.
We know that one dear Father's love
Gives both her crown and cross.

Oh, while beneath the snow-drift buds
The flower we love the best,
And on the wind-tossed bough the bird
Still builds its happy nest,
Praise God for all the good we know,
And trust blind for the rest!

—*Harper's Weekly.*

THE NEW ERA.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Organization and Platform of the Republican Party.

Political Equality Illustrated.

The following letter to the New York *Post*, from a prominent Republican of North Carolina, a participant in the convention, gives an interesting account of the organization of the Republican party in North Carolina:

RALEIGH, N. C., March 29, 1867.

The Republican party of North Carolina has thoroughly organized. Such an event marks a new era in history. How was it done? By whom? I propose to tell you.

Pursuant to the call issued by the loyal members of the North Carolina Legislature (explained in a previous letter), one hundred white and fifty black delegates convened in the Commons Hall, in this city, on the 27th inst. Fifty-six counties of the State were represented, and all would have been but for the scarcity of money and lack of accommodations for travelers in remote districts. We have an immense State. It is two hundred miles and over from Raleigh to the Tennessee line, and over one hundred miles to the sea shore; therefore, under the circumstances, the result has exceeded our most sanguine expectations. two-thirds of our counties being represented by its most intelligent and loyal citizens.

There were fifty colored delegates. They sat upon the floor beside the whites, participated in the offices, honors and debates, and achieved for the race the highest encomiums from both friend and foe. I am not stating one thing beyond the simple truth.

The white delegates were gentlemen of stamina—good old-fashioned farmers, a few lawyers and a few professed politicians. In many respects it was upon their part a most remarkable assemblage. It was almost entirely composed of middle-aged men, in the habit of indulging sober second thought upon political matters, and exercising good judgment in preference to prejudice and passion. Honorable gray hairs graced the brows of many of them, and the wrinkles of care on more youthful faces spoke with mute eloquence of past hours of suffering and Confederate despotism. But there was a spirit in every countenance, a sparkle in the eyes of all, a freedom of manner which showed a consciousness of freedom of thought and liberty of independent speech.

Among the colored people there were many untutored sons of the plow—others were shopkeepers, mechanics, a few preachers, and one or two politicians, if I may so speak of the past, who, since the surrender, have devoted their time to the happy consummation of all its troubles, upon the basis of justice and equality. Upon their faces were depicted unutterable emotions of satisfaction—when they spoke, it was with the voice of rejoicing and gratitude to God. Some of them were aged men, who had toiled in slavery for weary years, and whose honorable records in the past are known to all as gentlemen and Christians. The majority were middle-aged, and a few were young men. The blacks prevailed over the whites in number, and excelled them in the oratory—but all deported themselves with a courtesy which reflected honor on their good breeding.

Perhaps it may appear that I am overlooking these things, but all that I have said is strictly true. I would that the world had been there to see how sweet a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in harmony.

The hall of the House of Commons was appropriately decorated with national banners. Among them was that of the First North Carolina Union Volunteers, which has been borne triumphantly through fourteen battles. Above the Speaker's stand was a record- bearing this motto in large letters, "Union, Liberty, Equality." So much for the Republicanism.

The Convention was called to order, and Hon. Alf. Dockery, the Union candidate for Governor last autumn, unanimously chosen Temporary President, and the seal Mr. D. made an appropriate address, replete with patriotic sentiments, which were greeted with loud bursts of applause. From this moment a new confidence seized the hearts of all we were together—the former slave and his master equals and friends; both mingling their voices in approbation of sentiments of loyalty, and vieing in the expression of them. It was a glorious moment.

Two gentlemen were appointed temporary Secretaries, one white, and the other colored, Messrs. Hedrick and Powell, native sons of the Old North State, but residents at Washington city. The next time the Republicans of this State meet in Council we may be permitted to make the great orators of the nation to come down and confer with us? We should be very glad to see them and hear them. Our hearts yearn to set at the "feet of Gamaliel."

The following is the platform adopted. We think that it expresses all, and have taken our stand upon it to perish or conquer. It was drafted almost entirely by the distinguished gentleman above referred to—Colonel D. Heaton, of Craven.

Having assembled in the city of Raleigh on the 27th of March, 1867, in conformity with a law of the late civil, reflecting the sentiments of the loyal men of the State, and believing the time is at hand when an open and fearless expression of sentiment, opinion, and purpose, is urgently demanded, therefore

1. *Resolved*, That in view of our present political condition, our relations to the national government and the people of all sections of the country, this day with proud satisfaction unfurl the brilliant and glorious banner of the Republican party, and earnestly appeal to every true and patriotic man in the State to rally to its support, and sustain the patriotic record made by this great political organization, in standing by the Government of the nation in the terrible struggle, in carrying forward progressive measures of statesmanship to such a triumphant issue, and the powerful aid given in finally overthrowing and prostrating the most gigantic rebellion of ancient or modern times, should command the respect and challenge the admiration of every candid man.

2. *Resolved*, That the American Congress is undoubtedly entitled to the profound thanks of the whole country for its persevering, persistent, and heroic devotion to the principles of human rights as enunciated in the Declaration of Independence; that in the name of the patriotic people of this State we feel warranted in cordially assenting to and accepting the reconstruction plan recently and finally adopted by that body, and to the end that peace and order may be permanently secured, and every industrial pursuit promoted and encouraged, we pledge ourselves to use every fair and legitimate means to influence public sentiment to the nearest possible approach to unanimity on this subject.

3. *Resolved*, That we rejoice that the dogma long propagated, of the right of peaceable secession under the Constitution, has been forever overthrown by the national arbitrament, and that the idea of crushing out the late rebellion by force of arms; and that the doctrine that the supremacy of the General Government has been established, and that the paramount allegiance of the citizen has been acknowledged as due to the United States.

4. *Resolved*, That we sincerely exult in the fact that, as a nation, we are now almost by a nation of freemen; and that the sun, in all his course over our wide-spread country, no longer shines upon the brow of a slave. Without reservation we heartily indorse the great principle of civil and impartial suffrage, franchisement, without any property qualification, conferred without distinction of color, and that we are ready to unite in the early practical attainment of the so inestimable privileges. Although the mortal remains of Abraham Lincoln now rest silently beneath the soil of his adopted State, yet his voice still rings a clarion note through the land, seemingly summoning every American citizen to the support of the great party of liberty and humanity.

5. *Resolved*, That as the most potent and efficient means by which the South can speedily regain her lost prosperity, we earnestly advocate the spreading of knowledge and education among all men, and that to the attainment of this great end, we demand and shall persistently press and firmly insist upon the absolute right of free discussion and free speech on all subjects of public interest.

6. *Resolved*, That we now join in an earnest wish for the maintenance untarnished and undimmed of the public credit and unbridled faith of the nation.

7. *Resolved*, That in the maintenance of the position taken and the principles enunciated in this day, we earnestly invite the influence and co-operation of men of all political antecedents, who in regard and cordially support the recent acts of Congress as a solution of our present political difficulties; that we deprecate party violence, and desire peace and good will to all men, and if in an open and fearless effort, which we propose to make on every suitable occasion, to persuade and convince the people that our highest civil and political interests are to be promoted by maintaining the principles of the Republican party, an earnest appeal is hereby made, and it will be from no other cause than a rigid adherence to what we regard as a sacred right and a solemn public duty.

Resolutions complimentary of Gens. Sickles and Robinson were also adopted; and the President authorized to appoint an executive committee of forty.

This committee will organize sub-committees in every county, and be prepared to co-operate efficiently in the work of reconstruction.

The Union League is progressing rapidly. The party will soon be cemented, and present a front of polished granite. So much for that.

And now, in conclusion, I beg to repeat what I have before said, that the Republican party of North Carolina is both harmonious and enthusiastic. Its leaders are laboring with zeal for the success of its glorious principles. Its rank and file indorse and encourage them. What does all this mean? The day of rebel power and influence is gone. A new light has burst upon us. It is "the beacon sun of liberty" Three cheers for Congress and the Union!

NEUSE.

COAL AND IRON.

Pennsylvania and Her Improvements---Pittsburgh and Her Relations to the West.

To the Editor of Pittsburgh Commercial:

SIR:—When contemplating the vastness of the great commonwealth of Pennsylvania, possessing within its own borders every constituent of wealth and prosperity, we cannot but think and boast that no other State in the Union can be held in comparison. We have iron, coal and wood in all parts of it in grand profusion. Our manufactories are seen in every valley, giving employment to thousands of our people, and adding many comforts and blessings to the human family. Every year exhibits substantial progress pervading every branch of industry. Our improvements are pressing us forward with lightning speed; and in all those branches of physics most essential to the welfare of mankind, she certainly takes precedence of all the other States in the amount of her investment and the extent of her advances. In the exhibition at the World's Fair soon to open at Paris, while other nations will exhibit their wealth in furs, diamonds, and in articles of regal magnificence and luxury, Pennsylvania will be there with her displays of labor and skill, and in all that constitutes real progress and honest industry will bear away the palm from all competitors. The eminent position she occupies as a producing and manufacturing people attaches a duty to the citizens of this State that belongs to no other. We have both natural and artificial channels of external and internal commerce unparalleled in any other Commonwealth. The duty that devolves upon us then is to improve, maintain and extend these great articles of wealth and commerce as shall fully meet the wants of our rapidly growing manufactures, agriculture and commerce. So rapid is this progress, and so great the immense interests of our traffic that the means of transportation that would yesterday suffice for its wants will not do for to-day.

I was led to the consideration of this subject by reading an article in your valuable paper of the 21st inst., in relation to the transportation of iron ore, iron, coal and manufactured articles from Pittsburgh and the great West, and the suggestions therein made, to build a new line of railroad from Pittsburgh to Cleveland to relieve the traffic from the delays and blockages that do now exist on the canal.

Pittsburgh is, indeed, the Birmingham of America—pre-eminent in her many manufactures, particularly in those of iron and glass. I have always been with pride to behold the industrial palaces of your city, the curling smoke of which obscures the sun at noon-day. It is indeed a grand sight, and her outlets to the West and North are, indeed, too limited, and she naturally looks around in order to provide further facilities for distributing her great wealth of wares, and in return she receives the rich and indispensable iron ores, and the golden grain of the West. I know the energy and determination of your people. I know that they will make such exertions, and open such routes for her overplus, no matter at what cost. She is a giant struggling for more room and a wider sphere, and she will make it somewhere.

While the Western States have the most excellent iron ore, yet they are without coal to reduce it to iron. Pennsylvania has inexhaustible beds of coal. This ore of the West and the coal of our State must meet somewhere to make both of service. Experience has demonstrated that it is cheaper to bring the ore to the coal, and hence the necessity of transporting the rich and exhaustless ores of the West to the Pennsylvania coal fields and there manufactured into iron of all descriptions, which, in their turn, must be distributed all over the West. The transportation of this heavy freight to and fro has become a matter of the most vital importance, and hence the great city of Pittsburgh, situated in the centre of an immense coal district, teeming with its great number of manufactories, is compelled of necessity to open a new and better channels of communication to accommodate her immense and rapidly growing trade—and it is suggested in your paper to build a new railroad from that city to the lake at Cleveland.

I respectfully suggest to the citizens of Pittsburgh that a cheaper and more certain transportation can be obtained for the transfer of these raw materials and manufactured fabrics than the one proposed by rail to Cleveland. It is conceded by all that carriage by water is decidedly the most economical for the transfer of such heavy articles. The iron ore that is so extensively used at Pittsburgh is found in the northwestern part of the State of Michigan, on Lake Superior, and must be transported by water either to Erie or Cleveland, and from these points carried to the localities of coal deposits—the principal one of which is Pittsburgh. Let us examine and contrast these two routes. From Cleveland it is taken to Pittsburgh by a railroad 150 miles at a cost of $2 50 per ton, besides the additional expense of cartage. From Erie to Pittsburgh the entire route is by water through the Erie Canal to Rochester, and thence by the boats up the Ohio river, at a cost per ton of $1 95, and this in canal boats carrying but 60 tons—but a bill has this Winter passed the Legislature authorizing this canal to be enlarged to a capacity for passing boats carrying 200 tons. The larger boats can be run at a trifling additional cost to those carrying but 60 tons. It might be safely assumed, then, that a ton of ore or other heavy freight could be carried from the docks in the harbor of Erie, to the floor of the manufactories at Pittsburgh, at a cost not exceeding $1 25 per ton, just one-half of the expense, as contrasted with the carriage by rail from Cleveland; and I will add that the freight from the ore mines, on Lake Superior, to Erie is the same as that to Cleveland, although the distance is a little greater. This canal has a large basin at the docks at Erie, and the facilities for loading and unloading are not excelled anywhere, and besides these canal boats can go right to the very spot where their cargoes are to be used, saving the expense of cartage, and the consequent inconvenience, and in all mental endowments, to some while men. Verily, the world moves; and as the Hon. Thos. Settle said, "The old crust of Potomac, formed by slavery, like the ice on the Potomac, is breaking up and floating away. Passing off, sir, as will everything not founded in justice and established in truth." The same gentleman said playfully that he hoped Ohio might catch by the tail with North Carolina on the question of the political and civil equality of the races. That he felt free to advise the people of that State to make haste, however, for we are not going to wait a moment longer. [Laughter.]

There were present with us on this occasion the Hon. D. D. Goodloe, of Warren county, late of Washington city, and Col. D. Heaton, of Craven, Republicans of the first water and original parcels. Their presence encouraged and cheered us. We also gratified to meet with Messrs. Hedrick and Powell, native sons of the Old North State, but residents at Washington city. The next time the Republicans of this State meet in Council we hope they will make the great orators of the nation to come down and confer with us? We should be very glad to see them and hear them. Our hearts yearn to set at the "feet of Gamaliel."

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—The quotations from the New York Stock Board for to-day, received at noon by Mr. Bryan, show a slight decline in nearly the whole list:

Gold	134¼
U. S. Bonds, 1881	109
U. S. Bonds, 5-20's, 1862	109¾
U. S. Bonds (new issue) 5-20's, 1865	107
U. S. Bonds, 5-20's, 1865	106¾
Michigan Southern	72
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	84
" Wayne & Chicago	84
Erie	67
Chicago & Rock Island	103
Pittsburgh & Fort Wayne	87¾
Chicago & Northwestern preferred	84
New York Central	103
Reading	93¾

One o'clock New York quotations to Ira B. McVay & Co., bankers, show the following changes:

6s 1881	109
5-20s, 1862	109
" 1864	107
" 1865, May and November	106
5-20s, 1865, January and July	106
10-40s	98
Compound Compounds	119
August 7-30s	106
June and July	106
Gold	134¾

—The law requiring the National Banks to make out quarterly statements has produced much derangement in the monetary matters at the leading centers of trade. Much complaint is made of the inconvenience it produces. The Philadelphia *Press* says:

"The special efforts made by the banks to prepare for their quarterly statements, show how useless is the law requiring those elaborate exhibits, as a means of ascertaining their real condition. No matter what may be their average condition, it is easy for them to get up, once in three months, an array of details showing a perfectly satisfactory state of affairs. But while this provision of the bank law is deceptive rather than otherwise, as a means of ascertaining the condition of the banks, it causes much inconvenience at four periods of the year by producing an irregular interference with the course of banking operations, and an interruption of business in financial and business circles."

—The Chicago *Journal* is severe in its notice of the quarterly statements of the banks in that city. It says: "Notwithstanding that the statements for this quarter have a much more honest appearance than those for the quarter preceding, we find nothing in them to praise. The system, as at present pursued, is a badone, and does not fulfil the expectations of those who are interested. Bank officers look upon the whole thing as a farce, and the sooner the system is abolished the better. The stringency that invariably takes place in the money market on the eve of quarterly day is entirely unnecessary and uncalled for. The Comptroller should insist on an *average* statement. This would be fully as acceptable to the department and the public, and, if carried out, would do away with that periodical scraping of currency and slaughter of exchange which we have in four times a year, since the National Bank system went into effect. We observe that one institution includes in its liabilities a re discount, and have deducted this item from the aggregate of its loans and discounts in our summary. This is a practice that ought not to be tolerated. A bank is supposed to make application for loaning money, and not borrowing it; and inconsistent as it may seem, the institution referred to prides itself on absolutely refusing to allow interest on daily balances or time deposits. In financial circles it is well understood that the practice of re-discounting prevails to a large extent among the country Nationals, who are all stringly anticipating the day when the business justified by their actual cash means. Should a financial crisis take place, there would be only one result—the destruction of the entire National Banking system. So long as re-discounting prevails the National Banks resemble a row of bricks—upset one, and the rest immediately fall to the ground.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } SATURDAY, April 6, 1867. }

The oil market yesterday was inactive, and the sales made were small—principally to meet the wants of city dealers. We note the following transactions:

CRUDE OIL—Sales of 1000 bbls, to be delivered on the present stage of navigation, 60@63 gravity, in bulk, at 6½c; 1000 bbls do, on same conditions, 65@; 1000 bbls May delivery, sellers' option, at 6¾c; 220 bbls at 6¾c, packages returned; and 110 bbls, packages included, at 11½c.

REFINED OIL—The sales were 2,000 bbls light straw to white, as follows: 500 bbls, April delivery, at 27½c; 500 bbls May delivery at 26c; 500 bbls do June at 26½c; 500 bbls July delivery at 27c.

IRON AND NAILS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } SATURDAY, April 6, 1867. }

PRICES FOR PUDDLED IRON.

Common Bar sizes	5
Horse Shoe	6¼
Heavy Band	5½@ 6c
Hoop (light Band Scroll)	6½@ 7c
Round and Square	5½@ 6
Sheet Iron, No. 10	7
" 18 to 24	7½
" 25 to 26	8
" 27	8½
Plate Iron	5½@ 6
Flat Rails	5½@ 6
Rail, 35 and 20 lbs	4½@ 5
Nail Rods	11¾

NAILS.

10d to 6d Nails, Fencing and Brads	$6 75 3d fine 9 00
8d and 10d	7 00 2d fine 9 50
6d and 7d	7 25 3d in lining 10 50
4d and 5d	8 00 Cut Spikes 7 00
3d	8 00 Cut Spikes, 4 to 6 inch 6 75

Casing Nails—6d, $7 50; 8d, $7 00; 10d, $6 75; 12d, $6 50; 16d, $7 25.

Finishing Nails—6d, $8 25; 8d, $8 00; 10d, $7 75; 12d, $7 75; 16d, $7 75.

Barrel Nails, ½ inch, $9 50; 1 inch, $8 75; 1¼ inch, $8 00; 1¼ inch, $8 00; 1½ inch, $7 50.

Tobacco Nails—$7 50@8 00.

Shingle Nails—12½c per keg off, in lots of 100 kegs and upwards.

A discount of Note or acceptance at 60 days, with exchange on New York, or a discount of 3 per cent. for cash, if remitted on receipt of invoice. Payments to be made in New York Exchange, U. S. Treasury Note or Gold Coin. No discount on bills of less amount than $50 dollars.

LEATHER, HIDES AND OIL.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } SATURDAY, April 6, 1867. }

We quote as follows the current prices:

LEATHER.

Oak sole, heavy	42@46c	Extra shaved h'r's	44c
Oak sole, middle	40	Fair bridle, ₱ doz	$60@66
Oak sole, light	40c	Fair bridle, ₱ doz	$60@66
Rough oak, heavy	38@40c	Saddle skirting	45@46c
Rough oak, light	34@36c	Shoe skirting	42@44c
Finished calf	$1 25@1 75	Red sole B. A	38@39c
Waxed upper, ₱ ft	27@32c	Red sole Orinoco	34@35c
Band leather	40@50c	No. 1 pad skins	30
No. 1 oak harness	42	doz	$36@$ 50

HIDES.

Green salted heavy	13c	Green Calf	18@20c
Green salted, 50 to 60 lbs	12@12½c	Tanners' Oil ₱ doz	$5@$6 00
Green Butchers'	12½c	Tallow No. 1	10c
Dry Flint	21@23c		

Mineral Developments.

Black band iron ore discoveries continue to be made in the Schuylkill region. The amount of black band ore shipped over the Mill Creek railroad for the week ending March 23, was 246 05 tons; previously, 2,209 17 tons—total, 2,516 02 tons. The following items from the Pottsville *Standard* give the latest discoveries of this valuable ore:

Gen. Pleasants, on Monday last, found what is supposed to be the outcrop of the McGinnes vein of black band, near Brockville, in the Schuylkill valley. The specimens obtained are similar to those from the slope east of the McGinnes shaft. A few weeks will determine with certainty whether it is the genuine black band.

A correspondent writes from Tremont as follows: "Martin Zerbe has opened and is now mining, on the north side of Swatara gap, in the north side of Sharp Mountain, in Tremont township, a vein of black-band iron ore of very fine quality. The vein was six inches thick on first striking it, but has continued to increase, and is now over two feet thick, and appears to be increasing and improving in quality. It lies on the south side of a five-foot coal vein almost perpendicular, and continued to five hundred feet of ore above water level. It is entered at the Gap by a drift or gangway of forty yards. The property is owned by C. A. Snyder & Son, of Harrisburg. There are also other ores on the property, but they are as yet not fully developed.

At a colliery on Sharp Mountain, near Tremont, of which Mr. Allen Fisher, of this borough, has charge, a vein of, black band, some 2 feet thick and exceedingly rich in iron, has been found in a cross-cut and also through the coal measures in Sharp Mountain. The ore is imbedded in slate, which, with the ore, occupies about three feet of space between wall rocks. The ore is richer than that of the McGinnes vein at Mill Creek, but it appears to occupy a geological position precisely the same. It contains fossils and fish scales in a state of preservation which is indicative of the black-band, with the addition of threads of lime across the laminæ. Should this really prove to be the McGinnes vein, its discovery will be a matter of the utmost importance, as it is of sufficient thickness to be economically mined, and it could easily be found throughout the entire length of the Sharp Mountain."

Skeleton Leaves.

Many of our readers who have admired the exquisite tracery of leaf structure displayed in the denuded skeletons of plants, may be glad to know how to make such preparations for themselves. The following method has been communicated to the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, by Dr. G. Dickson:—

A solution of caustic soda is made by dissolving 3 ounces of washing soda in two pints of boiling water, and adding one and a half ounces of quicklime previously slacked. Into this solution, decant the clear solution and bring it to the boil. During ebullition add the leaves; boil briskly for some time—say an hour —occasionally adding hot water to supply the place of that lost by evaporation. Take out a leaf, put it in a vessel of water, and rub it between the fingers under the water. If the epidermis and parenchyma separate easily, the leaves are finished. These must be removed from the solution, and treated in the same way; but if not then the boiling must be continued for some time longer. To bleach the skeletons, mix about a drachm of chloride of lime with a pint of water, adding sufficient acetic acid to liberate the chlorine. Steep the leaves in this until they are whitened (about ten minutes), taking care not to let them stay in too long, just observe they are apt to become brittle. Put them into clean water, and float them out on pieces of paper. Lastly, remove them from from the paper before they are quite dry, and place them in a book or botanical press.

A company that insures female beauty against the accident from the age of fifteen to thirty is the latest thing in the insurance line. That company undertakes fearful responsibilities.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 3d, 1867.

We present our usual tabular abstract of the condition of our banks as represented by their several statements just published, for the quarter ending, April 1st, 1867, and a comparison of the most important aggregates with those of the preceding reports. The most marked change is shown in the heavy decrease in deposits. There were many causes operated to produce this result, the most prominent of which, was the stoppage or our iron mills, and the utter prostration in other heavy branches of trade. But amid all the discouragements, our banks have kept up their usual line of discounts, and are to-day in a sound and solid condition.

—James T. Brady & Co. advertise the new State Loan of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania—5-10s, 10-15s and 15-25s—that is, the State reserves the option of redemption in five years on the 5-10s. The investment is considered A No. 1, as it bears 6 per cent. interest, *free from taxation*. Parties desiring to invest, can purchase of Messrs. Brady & Co., saving Eastern commission and Express charges.

—The following table shows a comparison of the aggregates of the main items of the January with the April statements:

	January.	April.		
Capital	$16,753,500	$16,753,500		
Old Circulation	241,323	204,413	Dec.	$78,912
National Currency	7,202,986	7,243,109	Inc.	40,123
Deposits	12,966,518	11,986,042	Dec.	1,980,476
Loans	13,728,750	14,083,469	Inc.	354,719
U. S. Securities	10,867,404	10,476,400	Dec.	411,004
Coin, L. T. & C.	5,414,148	4,450,062	Dec.	955,086
Due by banks	2,175,126	2,016,997	Dec.	158,129

QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF THE BANKS OF PITTSBURGH, ALLEGHENY AND BIRMINGHAM, APRIL 1st, 1867.

BANKS.	Loans.	Stocks, Bonds & Mortgages.	Due by Banks.	Real Estate.	Capital.	Circulation.	Deposits.	Due to Banks.	State Tax.	Profit and Loss.
Pittsburgh	$1,000,000 00	$ 00 00	$ 00 00	$ 00 00	$ 00 00	$ 00 00	$ 00 00	$ 00 00	$ 00 00	$ 00 00
Exchange	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Iron City	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Commercial	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Citizens	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Mechanics	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Merchants	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Union	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Manufacturers	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Third National	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Fourth National	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Fifth National	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Allegheny	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00
Birmingham	1,000,000 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00	00 00

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 3, 1867. }

There was a noticeable improvement to-day in many articles of trade. The good weather has induced country buyers to come to the city and make more extensive purchases. The roads are yet too bad to allow any great amount of produce to be brought in or city merchandise to be taken out. As soon as the roads become solid there will, for a season at least, be considerable activity. Country merchants have generally allowed their stocks of goods to run pretty low. Floor continues active and has an appearance of an upward tendency in prices. Groceries are in good demand. Bacon and Lard are active. The attention of our readers is called to the following:

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial

MILWAUKEE, WIS., April 1, 1867.

During the past week there has been no unusual activity or change in the flour market with us, nor has there been any material change in the figures. We have continued at the same figures for a fortnight without any desire to decline, nor any warrant for an increase. The supply, in all grades, has not been large, and there has been but little speculation in the article. It would be unnecessary to recapitulate the operations of each day, as it would be almost a repetition from first to last. The same feeling of confidence in advancing prices still remains, and while we have no overweening belief in a still further increase in the prices of flour, we certainly have no apprehension of a falling off.

In the matter of wheat, up to-day, there has been no noticeable change, and its fluctuations have been moderate throughout, but it found renewed strength, and this morning's board held firmly as follows: No. 1, $2 87 ₱ bush; No. 2, $2 82; white, $2 90@2 95, which advance was strongly supported and increased at the noon board in the following figures: No. 1, $2 90@ 2 92½; No. 2, $2 85; No. 3, $2 78. The receipts of the week past have been in excess of the receipts of last year, in the following figures, which may be of interest: Receipts of last year, 15,800 centals; same dates this year, 22,340 centals; shipments, 14,458. We give the following figures as the ruling prices of the week: Flour, city double extra, $12 00; county do, $11 37½@11 50; extras, $10 50@10 75. Oats steady at 42@42½c for No. 1. Corn—old No. 1, 90@ 91½; new No. 1, 82@85c. Rye steady; $1 20@1 23. Provisions steady and quiet; beef, mess, $16 00; hams, beef, $36 00, pork; city mess, $23; prime, $21. The number of absorbing interests in the financial elections of presiding officers and boards for the ensuing year, and the canvass is carried on with all the spirit that men can enlist, when moved by either friendship or enmity, and while making a good night to-day, will settle to-morrow again into the usual ways of business, quite satisfied in the fortunate candidates for the honors of the Chambers.

Very respectfully, yours,

MOWER, CHURCH & BELL.

The receipts of leading articles of produce at Pittsburgh, per river and railroad, since our last were as follows: Flour, 2,000 bbls; corn meal, 142 bbls; corn, 4,000 sacks; barley, 800 sacks; wheat, 750 sacks; rye, 151 sacks; oats, 550 sacks, and butter, 43 packages.

We quote as follows, which are the wholesale prices, unless otherwise stated:

ASHES—We quote ashes, selling by the ton, at 8½c ₱ lb for potash; 5½c for common soda ash; 9½c for refined soda ash, and 12c ₱ lb for Pearl.

APPLES—Sales from store were made at from $4 00 @5 00 ₱ bbl for prime to choice, and at $2 75@4 00 for other qualities. Sales of 50 bbls pippins at $5 00 reported.

BUTTER—Choice qualities of butter are very scarce and in demand. Inferior grades are in large supply, and altogether nominal in price, as to quality and condition. We quote: Roll at 3 packages at 30c; 2 bbls at 36c; 2 bbls and 2 packages choice at 38c, and 2 boxes choice at 40c ₱ lb.

CHEESE—We note sales of Hamburg at 18c; Western Reserve at 17c, and Goshen at 21c ₱ lb.

DRIED FRUIT—We quote Apples at 9@10c ₱ lb, and Peaches at from 17 to 20c, as to quality.

FEATHERS—Sales of 300 lbs Prime Live Geese sold at 65c ₱ lb.

FISH—We note sales of white fish at $8 00, and lake herring at $4 25.

FLOUR—The market is active and receipts light. There has been no change in prices since our last. We note sales of the following brands: 200 bbls Desplaines' at $10 25; 100 bbls Lapere at $13 25; 100 bbls Hartford at $11 75; 100 bbls Lake Shore at $11 75; 100 bbls Snowdrift at $14 50; Jenkins's Lilly at $11 75, and Jenkins's Eureka at $14 00 ₱ bbl.

RYE FLOUR—Is quoted at $7 50@8 00 ₱ bbl.

HAY—The market is steady and supply add held at $2 00 for No. 1 spring; $2 75@3 75 for No. 2, and $4 00 @5 25 for red winter.

RYE—From first hands we quote at $1 30@1 35, and from retail at $1 40@1 45 ₱ bush.

CORN—The only sale coming under our notice was one of 800 bush shelled on the wharf, at 80c ₱ bush.

OATS—We note sales of 150 bush, on the track, at 42c, and 20 bags at $1 25 ₱ bushel.

BARLEY—The general quotations for barley are $1 10@1 15 ₱ bush.

HAY—Baled is selling on the wharf and by the car load at $18@24 ₱ ton for good. There is but little coming in from the country on wagons, and it may be quoted nominally at $26@30 ₱ ton, as to quality.

LEAD—We quote pig selling at 10½c ₱ lb, in good sized lots.

MAPLE MOLASSES—We quote sales of 12 jugs at $1 56, and 20 jugs at $1 75 ₱ gallon.

POTATOES—We quote sales of car and 400 bushels peachblows at 90c per bushel.

WHISKY—The market is dull. We quote city rectified at $2 20 per gallon. Sales of 30 bbls high wines, 7 to 9 degrees above proof, Cahaper Gauge, at $2 20 per gallon, reported.

Groceries.

There is a fair trade doing in groceries, and a slight decline in sugar accounts for it. There has been no change, since our last, in prices of coffee, although there has been an advance East, of near ¼c ₱ lb, in gold. Choice coffee is scarce, but there is a good supply of the prime and good kinds. No sour descriptions of goods higher prices are anticipated. We quote:

COFFEE—The market is firm at the following quotations: Choice Rio, 23c; prime, 22c; fair, 21c; Old Government Java coffee, 38c; Laguayra 27c.

BROWN SUGARS—New Orleans, 14@14½c; Porto Rico, 13@13½c; Cuba, 12½@12¾c; Hard, 18c; A Coffee, 16c; Crushed, 17c; Powdered, 16c.

MOLASSES—Orleans, 80@90c; Porto Rico, 75@80c; English Island, 80c.

SYRUP—Lovering's, @1 10; Other syrups range from $1 00 to $1 25 ₱ gallon.

TEAS—Young Hyson, 90c@$1 00; Imperial, $1 50 @2 00; Gunpowder, $1 00@2 00; Oolong, 75c@$1 25.

FISH—No. 1 Shore Mackerel, $21 50 ₱ bbl; half do, $12 50; No. 1 Bay Mackerel, $20 ₱ bbl; No. 2 do, $18 00; Mackerel, $19 50; No. 2 do, $16 00; White fish, half bbl, $8 00; Labrador Herring, half bbl, $10; Lake Herring, $4 25.

RICE—Carolina, 11½@12c; Rangoon, 10½c.

SODA—B3 Cask, 10½c.

WOOL MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

The tone of the market may be again designated as quiet, with a firm feeling among buyers, and a somewhat improved one among sellers, which is shared among manufacturers. The improved feeling in the goods market has done something towards dispelling the heavy gloom which has so long hung over the woolen interest; yet the same disposition is manifested to increase production; mills are stopped for very slight causes, and we know of none which are doing all they can. In dull times like these, although all the machinery may be in order for active operation, and running full time, yet they are far from producing the amount they would were there an active demand for goods; and so long as there is such a check upon the consumption of wool, we cannot expect very active times in the wool market. This will also prevent any material advance in price, although it is generally conceded that before the next fall trade, the production of wool upon the market will be very low. And we are hearing from all parts of the West that the farmers is very much smaller than a year ago. The States of Pennsylvania and Ohio will feel very largely in the season, and Michigan, where the farmers hold back their w

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1867.

TERMS:

One copy, per year.....$2 00
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One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.

THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA

One of the most significant, if not *the* most significant, of events that have lately happened, is the transfer to the United States, for a comparatively nominal consideration, of the whole of the Russian Possessions in North America. To whom the credit of negotiating the Treaty by which the cession is made may be due, we are not informed; but we imagine the negotiations were all on one side,and, indeed, were little more than an offer from the Russian Government and a prompt acceptance by our own. The importance of the acquisition, in many respects, can scarcely be exaggerated. It is not the immense tract of territory we acquire that is of so much consequence. The greater part of that would be a barren, useless gift at best. But, below the big square patch, which equals half the United States in area, there will be seen on the map a narrow strip and a string of islands, dividing the British Possessions from the Pacific, and situated so as to not only completely flank any attempt of England to expand toward the North and West, but, in case of war to seriously threaten her outlet upon the Pacific altogether. We shall scarcely realize the value of the position this will give us until we see the intense excitement and smothered wrath the Treaty causes, on its becoming known to the English Parliament and press.

The manner in which this prize has, as it were, dropped into the already teeming lap of Columbia—whom, under the circumstances, it will be perfectly justifiable and appropriate to Hail!—the manner of it, we say, is not the least gratifying phase of the transaction. Lands won in war are blood stained trophies after all; they always bear the taint of slaughter and are ever moist with widows' tears. Lands bandied from one sovereign to another for a political caprice or a dynastic whim are,always redolent of discontent and ripe for insurrection. But these lands come to us in the course of the fulfilment of a great political idea; in the partial fruition of the grand question of natural national growth. The young but colossal Republic of the West and the young but colossal Empire of the East quietly shaking hands together over Behring's Straits, symbolize to the rest of the world the future and its inevitable course and developement. It admonishes them that the time is coming when countries which are so far exhausted as to be compelled to make money by commerce and manufactures wherewith to buy absolute necessaries of existence, must be content to sink into a condition of secondary magnitude and give precedence to those which can not only, from their soil and their mines, produce an affluence for their own support, but also supply sufficient for the wants of all mankind.

What precise motive Russia could have had in granting us this remarkable bargain cannot, at present, be exactly determined; and we take it for granted, as we before intimated, that the whole affair was Russian, from its inception up to the point of consummation; for we do not believe, if there had been much diplomatic correspondence, either with Mr. SEWARD or Mr. CASSIUS M. CLAY, it could have been kept so secret. Hazarding a conjecture, we should say this treaty is a premonition of a great European war, wherein Russia does not wish to be hampered by possessions in the West—which she would be bound in honor to defend at an immense and profitless cost—while she needs all her military and naval resources to aid in the realization of her projects of conquest and aggrandizement in the East. She is acting in accordance with the policy that dictated NAPOLEON'S sale to us of Louisiana, and which will possibly one day dictate a Spanish sale to us of Cuba. But, whatever the motive, we should say there need be little hesitancy in accepting and congratulating ourselves upon the terms of the Treaty, and we have no doubt that it will be confirmed by the Senate with little or no opposition.

SAFETY OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES.

Although it is rather tardy caution that locks the stable after the horse is stolen, yet we are willing to award the character of wisdom to those who turn the key of their own stables when it is known that a neighbor's has been visited by thieves. And we are glad to learn that our Legislature, as mentioned in their correspondence lately, have been led, in consequence of the recent burning of a theater in New York, to pass a law for the better regulation of places of amusement, and particularly with reference to the safety of persons assembled therein.

Some of the most appalling casualties that have ever occurred, have been occasioned by the conflagration of buildings in which large numbers of people were assembled. And even where only an alarm of fire or other danger occurred in such places, it generally rises to a panic involving fatal consequences, although the cause of the alarm was only imaginary.

The law to which we refer was designed specially for Philadelphia, but by its last section is made applicable also to Pittsburgh and Allegheny. Its principal provisions are these,—that the owners or lessees of places of amusement shall not allow any seats, chairs, or other obstructions to be placed in the aisles or passage ways of such places, that the doors, if they open *inwardly*, shall be left open and kept open by fastenings during the time when they are occupied by assemblies,—that if they open outwardly, they shall not, while so occupied, be prevented by any fastenings from easy and free opening—that sufficient hose arrangement be provided for the extinguishment of fires.

It will be a subject of congratulation to the public to learn that such a law has been passed by the Legislature. Large assemblies often convene in the halls, theaters and other rooms referred to, in those cities, not only for the purposes of amusement, but for lectures, political meetings, and even for religious services. When they sit there, the next time they visit them for any purpose, they will observe whether the means of egress are sufficient or not, whether the doors open outward or inward, whether they are shut or open, whether the passages and the stairs are crooked and cumbered or the reverse. In short, every person who has the average measure of intere t in the quest on of his own life and safety, will have an eye to these matters, lest he should find himself, in an unexpected moment, to have entered a trap instead of a place of amusement or instruction.

The law, we hope, will be speedily applied in these cities, to some of whose places of public assemblage its application, with reference to doors and the mode of their opening, is particularly needed. Nor can we see why the humane provisions of it should not be applied, as well, to churches, at least to the extent of keeping the aisles clear and having the doors so hung as to open outwardly, or slide sideways.

THE COURT DRESS.

Some years ago there was much talk and more laughter about the dress of our diplomatic representatives at foreign courts. At that time, if we remember rightly, Jonathan at home took some offense because in one case, a gentleman having jurisdiction over court etiquette had prescribed to the American representative what kind of clothes he must wear. It was deemed entirely competent for a free citizen, not to say diplomatic functionary, of the great Republic, to decide for himself on the cut of his coat and the length and breadth of his pantaloons, and everything else connected with his wardrobe and toilet.

The question is up, in all its magnitude and importance, again, and is engaging the serious attention of Congress. Two difficulties attend the adjustment of this great question. First, we have to avoid all appearance of giving aid and comfort to royalty by clothing our foreign agents in purple, gold lace and jewelry; and secondly, out of traditionary respect for republican simplicity, we wish them to be distinguished by a national costume, but unfortunately we have no national costume to take a stand upon, as our ultimatum. Consequently, being at once liable to offend all regal etiquette, and to make republican simplicity ridiculous by the incongruous diversity of its aspects, the wisdom of Congress has been invoked, and a court dress has been designated. It is "the simple dress of an American citizen." This is reckoned sufficiently definite, as it will suit any one, native or naturalized, who has the good fortune to be a voter, to have his residence under the stars and stripes, and who has the common lot to possess no surplus of crimson and purple clothing, beyond what his wife wears, to make a court dress for himself. This law is ample, we think, in its provisions, to keep our foreign diplomats from going to court in their boots, bell-crown, and with their segar and umbrella.

VOTING IN THE SOUTH.

The story of the fox that, having lost his own tail in a trap, endeavored to persuade all the other foxes of his forest to decandalise themselves in order to take away the shame of his mutilation, is reproduced, in substance, by a portion of the hopelessly disfranchised rebels in the Southern States. They try to induce the people to decline voting under the reconstruction law. This would exactly cover their own disgrace, as it would make their unavoidable position appear voluntary, and so, respectable as the fashionable one.

But while the better class of men who have been involved in the rebellion advise a contrary course, it is not likely that the selfish cunning of reynard's policy will be successful to any great extent. The popular element, hitherto of not much account save as soldiers, and not much appealed to for free volition and action, will be more extensively reached and effectively aroused to action, we believe, on the approaching election occasions, than ever before. And if the Southern *people*, as distinguished from the demagogues who have ruined them, shall act wisely in the case, they will ensure to themselves an advanced position of influence in the politics of the country, beyond anything possible under their old regime, as well as expedite, to their own advantage, the restoration and prosperity of their unfortunate and unhappy portion of the Union.

TRICHINA, OR WHAT?

When we are convinced by occular observation, or by reliable testimony—which is just as good—that there are animals or animalcules whose life can resist a heat of 212 degrees by Fahrenheit's thermometer, a period long enough to cook a ham, we shall hold ourselves ready to supplement our creed by believing in salamanders, whose native element is fire. We have, however, no reason to doubt the correctness of a local item in the Springfield *Republican* which gives an account of the extreme sickness of six persons, one of whom died, in consequence of partaking of *raw* ham. Investigations were in progress, the result of which we shall await with interest, to determine whether there was evidence of *trichina* in the meat, or whether it was discased in some other way. There is no doubt that the sickness and, in one of the cases, death, were caused by the meat. The circumstances determine that. The persons were all of one family, and ate together, the one who ate the most freely being the one who died. We note the facts. Every one can make his own use of them.

ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS.

The country will not feel sorry Congress has adjourned—except that it did not adjourn till the usual time of meeting in December. It reasons there are for meeting again early in July, they were not made to appear; and in taking the recess we cannot help thinking those who did it magnified the importance of matters plead as an excuse, as well as their own. Looking back, the conclusion is readily reached, that had Congress done its business in the time it should have been done, the members might without detriment have mingled with their constituents some time ago, and perhaps found a greater degree of favor in their eyes. It is one of the things not yet explained, that the people experience great relief when our Legislative bodies get away. Congress did well at the irregular session in passing the Supplemental Reconstruction Bill; but it would have done better had it passed it at the regular session, months ago. The fact that the business and financial world draws a long breath over the adjournment, renders comment unnecessary.

OUR Harrisburg correspondent says it is not improbable that Mr. QUAY, in the House, will move to discharge the Committee on Railroads from the further consideration of the Bogus Free Railroad Bill which has passed the Senate. This would be good, so far as it went. It is true the people of the State wish to be saved from the infliction which that bill proposes to place upon them; but they demand more—an effective Free Railroad Law. Let Mr. QUAY, therefore, go a step further, and introduce a bill that will be a just response to the wishes of the people, and confer inestimable benefits on the State. We wish some man in the Legislature would rise in his place and explain why it is that a Legislature, chosen without opposition as a Free Railroad Legislature, cannot pass a Free Railroad Law. Will Mr. QUAY undertake it? Let Senators and members not flatter themselves that if they do not answer in their places, they will have to do it before the people.

THE Legislature of Illinois has passed a law making it a high misdemeanor to receive any person into an Insane Asylum as a patient, except on the decision and recommendation of a jury. This legislation has probably been prompted by some cause. The subject is important. Among the various forms assumed by this Protean malady, there are some which it is extremely difficult to detect, and consequently the sanity of some persons is long held in doubt. The denial of it by the patient himself is so common in a class of cases, that it affords no ground for a judgment in any one. And as it is known that interested motives have led to the confinement of some individuals on the charge of insanity when they were not insane, the decision of a jury, prescribed by this law, is a wise and humane requirement.

CHEATING circulars are sent through the country, dated from the "Bible House, New York," soliciting custom and money for various *gift enterprises* with taking and deceitful names. The name of the *Bible House* is used to disarm suspicion and to cheat under false colors. The Secretaries of the Bible Socicities have published a card, saying that no rooms in the Bible House are rented or used for any such fraudulent purposes.

WOLVES are said to be pestering the farmers of Hardy county, W. Va. There are some troublesome beasts of prey, of the genus *homo*, lurking about these cities, which we would be willing to see swapped off for Harden county wolves, head for head. Yes, we would probably make a profit at two for a wolf.

THE indications in the South are decidedly favorable for the extension of the organization and principles of the Republican party throughout the South. The ice once broken, Republican principles will make rapid progress among all classes in the South.

WASHINGTON letter-writers say the BINGHAM-BUTLER feud has not been adjusted, but that BUTLER has a rod in pickle for his opponent. It is a pity they could not find a way of fighting it out without compelling everybody to be witnesses.

THE story about MRS. DEAN, daughter of Mr. BOKER, the rich New York man, representing her to be in a debased and outcast condition, is contradicted in all its statements, on authority which we have no reason to doubt.

MORE "STRIKES."

The aspect of the times, with respect to the relations of labor and wages, is portentous of difficulty to individuals, if not to communities. In different parts of the country, several of those movements, commonly called "strikes," have lately occurred. The difference in the alleged causes for them makes it difficult to understand how they can be real, or otherwise than imaginary, at least in some cases. Applying the term to the concerted action of employers for the reduction of wages as well as to those of the employed, for the purpose of raising them, we find that there are strikes for reducing the work-day from ten to eight hours, and for extending it from eight hours to ten. We also find strikes to raise the wages of labor, or to prevent their reduction, and strikes to reduce them.

Workmen seriously affirm, in justification of their action, that they cannot afford to labor for less wages than they have been receiving, or, as the case may be, for less than they are now demanding. And it is declared with equal seriousness by millowners and contractors, that they cannot afford to pay more than they now do, or propose to pay. What is to be done under such inexplicable conditions, for they appear to be inexplicable, it is difficult to say. If both sides are correct in their statements, the cause must lie outside of their immediate relations to each other. And it would seem to be the course of sound wisdom to join in endeavors to discover and rectify it, instead of endeavoring to force each other to bear all the inconvenience arising from its operations.

The effect produced on the relations of employer and employed, by frequent interruptions of harmony, must be injurious eventually to both parties, and still more hurtful to their joint interests. In large manufacturing operations, and in extensive mechanical employments, it appears to be absolutely necessary that there should be something like reliableness and stability in these relations, since large investments and heavy contracts made on the faith of wages continuing unchanged, may prove ruinous losses by the sudden and unexpected occurrence of a strike. Men will not voluntarily expose themselves to the danger and anxiety unavoidable under these conditions. And the same principle applies to the other party.

We do not express here any opinion on the subject of strikes, in their moral aspect. We refer to them as events of the times which, in our judgment, do not augur well for the interests of labor, nor for those kinds of business, in which the profits of capital depend on the labor of many hands, or the employment of many hands depends on the investment of large capital. It persisted in, the modes of conducting business of the kind referred to, will unavoidably be changed, or the relations of employer and employed will undergo decided modifications, perhaps not to the advantage of either, certainly not to that of the latter.

GENERAL WADE HAMPTON'S speech in favor of suffrage for all, on the basis of intelligence, is being extensively published by the Southern press, with apparently hearty approval. This is progress of the most promising description. Now let the Southern people move correspondingly to afford to all the means of acquiring the requisite intelligence. Anything short of providing universal educational facilities would subject the Sauth to the imputation of favoring a qualification impossible to attain on the part of a large share of the population.

THE members of the Legislature manifest the most absolute freedom in helping themselves to the people's money, but the greatest reluctance to grant to the people the privilege of spending their own money in building railroads for the developement of the State and for their own benefits. If the great corporation which is so potent with the Legislature in railroad legislation, would only exercise its power to shield the people from unwise legislation in other respects, it would perhaps be able to keep down measurably the large balance that is scoring up against it.

WHAT NEXT?—Lovely and accomplished woman has been doing some very extraordinary things of late, in the way of costume and personal decoration, or rather disfigurement. In the zoologic line, particularly, she has made selections that cannot but be regarded as eccentric. Rats and mice are not the most attractive animals in the world. But what shall we say of pressing the most venomous of reptiles and the most unclean and ferocious of birds into their charming service; yet we hear that bonnets made from the skin of the cobra di capello, and ladies' muffs made of vulture down, are among the articles sent from the Cape of Good Hope to the Paris Exhibition. Such articles would be just the thing for a certain notorious class of Parisian females, because they would symbolize the wearers' natures and calling, but we do trust that the foolish girls we send in such numbers from the United States to the French capital will not be beguiled into adopting the odious fashion. If they must have a mania for the convertible portions of some objectionable beast, let them patronize their native skunk.

THE FORTUNE SEASON.—About this time every year, when news is scarce and business not so brisk as might be desired, leisure is left for the exercise of the imagination, and the result is a series of queer or prodigious fancies in which the mania for size is specially developed. In California it takes the form of colossal pumpkins, eggs and gooseberries; hereabouts it runs to immense fortunes left by distant relatives in England to unconscious and astonished recipients in this country. The latest case we have seen is that of Mr. S. H. Roland, a hotel clerk in Memphis, but well known in McConnellsville, where his family reside, his brother being postmaster of the village. The Cincinnati *Gazette* computes the property of which he is the lucky heir or legatee at eight millions. It may be so, but we doubt it. We do not doubt the accession of fortune, but we must beg of the *Gazette* not to be quite so lavish of its cyphers when it sets up figures.

A CENTURY BEHIND.—Delaware, though now scarcely one of the Southern States, is as far behind the age in spirit and feeling as South Carolina itself. According to the Wilmington *Commercial*, at New Castle, within thirty-five miles of Philadelphia, there is, at least three times a year, active and public use of the whipping post and pillory, pursuant to the laws of the State. Not only are colored men lashed but colored women; and not only they, but white people of both sexes, too. The *Commercial* says "this spectacle is enjoyed not alone at New Castle, but at Georgetown, in Sussex county, within sight of the residence of Mr. Saulsbury, a Senator of the United States. And not only there, but at Dover, the capital of the State. In that town, where the law-makers of Delaware sit and deliberate, they may almost look out upon the whipping post and see the fall of the lash, while the cries of the unfortunate wretches might penetrate to the ears of the worshippers in the Christian churches of that town."

ASKING TOO MUCH.—We hear from New York that the carpenters, painters, plumbers and other trades' unions are going to ask for another fifty cents a day, the demand to be enforced, of course, by a strike. Their example will no doubt be followed all over the country. Do working men ever consider that with every advance they obtain above a certain point, they increase the prices of the necessaries of life in more than equal proportion, consequently reaping no real benefit for themselves, while they add seriously to the embarrassments of a large class who are utterly unable to any additional remuneration?

CANINE USEFULNESS.—The other day as Mr. Asa Butman, of Illinoistown, was crossing the Mississippi on the ice with a number of friends, he broke through and would have been drowned but for the sagacity and devotion of a Newfoundland dog, which plunged in after him and dragged him to the shore. We recommend the incident to the attention and reflection of the lunatic writers on the Chicago and Indianapolis papers, who are advocating the extermination of the whole canine race, on the ground that "dogs are utterly useless." We imagine Mr. Butman would be likely to differ with them in opinion.

WAKING UP.—Even the conservative newspaper press of the South is waking from its dream of stagnation to a consciousness of the fact that the surface of society is rippled by a constant succession of new ideas. It has been discussing the question of female suffrage and comes to the conclusion that nothing is more certain than that women will be permitted to vote in less than ten years.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Spanish advices report no fewer than eight newspaper editors under sentence of death.

One of the fashionable cooks in New York gets $60 a week, board and pickings. Better pay that amount to a good cook than twice as much to an indifferent. Cooks are seldom estimated at their proper value.

The lease of the Tremont House, at Boston, has been renewed for ten years by its present proprietor, Mr. Stevens, for $35,000 a year.

Within the last year, twelve of the wealthiest and most beautiful young ladies in Nashville, Tennessee, have been married to United States officers. A practical kind of Union, that will do more to forward the cause of reconstruction than all the legislation that could be devised in half a dozen sessions of Congress.

Great Britain in 1864 had 883 blast furnaces, of which 613 were in operation during the years their total production being 4,760,000 tons of pig iron, valued at $59,600,000.

The Prussian Government has consented that he Austrian archdukes who resigned the command of their Prussian regiments after the war shall resume their former titles as honorary colonels in the service.

A Dalton (Georgia) paper tells of a former planter in Pulaski county who is employed by one of his ex-slaves as overseer. Sambo pays his old massa liberally, giving him eight bales of cotton for his services for the season.

The effect of wind blowing against a square chimney, it is reported, is twice as great as when it blows against a circular chimney of the same dimensions. The form of the latter diverts the strength of the wind.

It is stated that on Tuesday last several prominent merchants of Charleston visited General Sickles, and assured him they would heartily co-operate with him in the work of reorganization. Gen. Sickles replied that the military would not interfere in political movements as partisans.

The number of paupers in Great Britain and Ireland is steadily increasing. According to a return recently made to the British Parliament, there were in the first week of December, 1866, 964,592 paupers in England and Wales, as compared with 882,025 in the corresponding period of 1865. This is nearly equal to one-thirtieth of the entire population.

A horrible case of child murder has come to light at Warsaw, Indiana, the monster who perpetrated it being a German, named Lawrence Hari, and the unfortunate little victim, a child only four years of age, named Winfield Hines, whom Hari had obtained at the county Poor House. Before this infant with straps and shingles, hung it up by the waist, plunged it into ice cold water, left it out for hours in the bitter cold, covered it with hot ashes, and in other diabolical ways tortured it for six weeks, until death put an end to its sufferings. The wretch's wife was in the house all the while and a witness of her husband's sickening cruelty. Five hundred dollars has been offered for his apprehension.

During 1866 over 5,000,000 pounds of books were exported from Great Britain, a large proportion of which came to the United States. The value of these books was $3,010,885 in gold, an average of 60 cents a pound.

On Saturday week the Adjutant General enrolled 500 men into the regular army. Owing to the general prostration of business over the whole country, the recruiting business was never better than now, except during the progress of the war.

California twenty years ago had no newspapers. Now, there are twelve dailies, one triweekly and forty-one weeklies in San Francisco alone. In the remainder of the State there are twelve dailies, one triweekly and seventy-three weeklies. Californians are a reading people, and their newspapers are quite up to the average of our best eastern papers.

By the want of co-operation between the officers of the New York police and of the internal revenue department, upward of a million dollars per week, which would otherwise be yielded by the whisky tax, are lost to the Government.

Eight suits have been commenced against the Louisville and Cincinnati Mail Company for damages, varying, in different cases, from $10,000 to $15,000, for destruction of life and bodily injury caused by the explosion of the boilers of the General Lytle in August last, near Bolivia, Ind.

Eighteen young ladies who, five years ago, organized at Milford, Connecticut, what they called a "Chapter of Revelation," whose meetings should occur every five years, at which each member should relate the most prominent events in her life, held their first reunion Tuesday, did the promised "revealing," and drank one another's health in a bottle of wine which had been sealed with the society's organization. Two of the number had died and five married since their organization. It would undoubtedly be interesting to listen to a recital of these revelations; that is, if they were entirely unreserved and truthful.

General Sypher, the new chief of police in New Orleans, appoints his subordinates without regard to color, and in Tennessee the "Conservatives" have invited the colored people to send delegates to a State Convention, called by the former, to meet in Nashville next month, to nominate State officers. The world not only moves by rather rapidly.

The Philadelphia *Episcopalian*, alluding to the season of Lent now passing, says: "We never met with a family which made any real difference in regard to the quantity or quality of food connected in Lent." The editor confesses to a wonderful amount of ignorance.

Several hundred English sparrows have been shipped from Belfast to New York for farmers. This has been rendered necessary by the wanton destruction in some localities of small birds. Almost every small bird is worth a great deal more than what he eats in the way of fruit and grain for his services in destroying insects and grubs.

A bill has passed the New York Assembly making eight hours a legal day's work. But all the legislation in the world cannot regulate the rate of wages.

An act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey went into effect yesterday, prohibiting the whipping of children in the public schools. Did they do anything about the cayenne pepper feature?

It is stated that the prison grounds at Salisbury, North Carolina, are to be planted with cotton the present season.

A big rat hunt in Zanesville, Ohio, last week resulted in the capture and massacre of twenty-seven hundred of the "varmints" by one party, and twenty-three hundred by the other.

The Utica *Observer* says Mr. Levi Holcomb, of Rome, recently shot two panthers in John Brown's tract, one of which was a female seven feet and 9 inches from tip to tip.

Ira Bush, a church elder, Sabbath-school superintendent, &c., at Port Jervis, New York, was arrested last Friday for passing counterfeit money. During a recent tour, attending religious meetings in Sullivan county, he had "shoved" a large quantity of ten dollar bills, and was followed and arrested.

In Sedalia, Missouri, on the 23d inst., a youthful rowdy, named Wood, shot and killed a German named Germer, a saloon keeper, because the latter's bar-keeper had refused him liquor. The murderer was arrested and put in jail, and during the night was taken from the custody of the officers by a mob, and hung to a gatepost.

J. S. Lyle went into an African church, in Richmond, Indiana, a few nights ago, and seizing one of the "sistern" who was undergoing the operation known as "getting religion," shook her energetically, "merely to restore her to a normal condition," as he said. He was prosecuted for assault, but the jury could not agree.

The French iron-clad Couronne foundered during a hurricane in the Gulf of Lyons. Several of the crew perished.

Owing to high winds in the Adriatic, Venice has been inundated to an extent which has never been equaled within the memory of any of the inhabitants. The piazza of San Mark was so flooded that boats and gondolas passed over it, and the space had the appearance of a vast lake.

The Journals of Belgium have again opened a subscription for the Pope. The *Journal de Bruxelles*, the *Patrie* o' *Bruges*, and the *Echo de Namur* have collected 80,000f. The *Gazette de Liege* has received a subscription of 10,000f., the annual interest of which is to go to the maintenance of one zouave.

English papers are again discussing the question of street railways, and their agitation of the matter has drawn forth a letter from the irrepressible George Francis Train, which has been addressed to the principal corporations in England and the vestries of the metropolitan parishes.

Crossing the Chattahoochee, one beholds, bleaching in the sunshine, the skeletons of those who fell where the contending armies fought for possession of the "Gate City." Many of the intrenchments and fortifications yet stand on both sides of the river, undisturbed. Others, and the graves near them, are being leveled by the plough. With a coolness truly refreshing, the ploughman turns up the bones of the dead and levels the graves of the unknown.

HELD RESPONSIBLE.—A rather curious and unusual case was decided the other day in the Supreme Court of New York. Mr. Andrew V. Stout, a very wealthy financier, and President of the Shoe and Leather Bank, expressed his confidence in a certain corporation which proved worthless to Mr. Orlando Stout, thereby inducing the latter to invest and subsequently lose largely. The jury gave a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for forty thousand dollars.

COUNTY tax payers will find in another column a card from David Aiken, Jr., County Treasurer, which is deserving of general attention. Mr. Aiken will be prepared to receive the County, State, Poor and Bounty taxes for 1867, on and after the first day of May. All who pay the taxes between May and August 1st will be allowed a deduction of five per cent., but none will be allowed during the month of August, and ten per cent. will be added after the first day of September.

PERSONAL.

—A rumor is going the rounds to the effect that John C. Heenan and Joe Coburn are going to have a ring fight for the pugilistic championship of the United States and ten thousand dollars. It is probably without foundation further than the fact that they had some hard words in a New York saloon, most probably when Coburn was under the influence of seductive beverages.

—Mr. Hackett, the actor, makes proposals for ground on which to build a first-class theater in New York, and the *Herald*, in which he evidently intends to advertise, publishes the fact on the editorial page, and gives it a first-class half column of editorial notice. The *Herald* has weakened itself irreparably by the expenditure of an unnecessary amount of thunder on the managers who declined to patronize its columns. Strangely enough those who did so are the only ones who have made any money this season.

—It is said that, in his beautiful residence at Bridgeport, Barnum has no relic or sign of his long life as a showman, except a marble bust of Jenny Lind.

—Theodore Clay, son of Henry Clay, has for over thirty years, been an inmate of the Lunatic Asylum at Lexington, Ky. He became insane from disappointed affection.

—The Princess of Wales is said to be threatened with abscess in the knee joint. The London *Morning Post* has the following fling at her dissipated and negligent husband. It says:—"The only circumstance which would lead us to doubt the report of Her Royal Highness's condition is that the Prince is constant in his attendance upon the hunt and at theatrical performances."

—Hon. Amasa Sprague, of Rhode Island, elder brother of Senator Sprague, is erecting, on his own estate at Rocky Point, on Narragansett Bay, a building for the accommodation of visitors to the New England Agricultural Fair, with a capacity for 5,000 people. This gentleman is said to be the owner of a stud rivalling that of an English turf hunter. His stables contain 260 horses.

—According to the *Friend*, (Quaker paper,) Mrs. Cady Stanton is the orator of the age. Her power over an intelligent audience is irresistible. Keen as Phillips, majestic as Sumner, elegant as Curtis, tender and womanly as Lucretia Mott, magnetizing a massive logic with the most etherial grace, her claim to a place among the first of American orators and statesmen is beyond dispute. Her rightful place is in the Senate." Mrs. Stanton's claim to a place among Ameri an states-*men* is good.

—Charles A. Weed, the individual the President has determined to select to be Marshal of Louisiana, during the administration of General Sutler in New Orleans was the partner of A. J. Butler, the General's brother, and is one of the proprietors of the New Orleans *Times*. General Butler is active for his confirmation. A. J. Butler died about three years ago, worth a large fortune, the most of which was made after the war commenced—principally in New Orleans.

—The health of Senator Morton, of Indiana, is so far restored that he appears to be as well as ever. His only difficulty is a little weakness in the knees, which is fast disappearing—politically he never was weak there or anywhere else. He has already attained a standing in the Senate second to no one—a fact altogether unusual in a new member.

—The Prince of Wales lately gave a bracelet to a lady of distinction, which proved to be bogus, whereat he gave the dealer an immense blowing up. A genuine article was substituted.

—The Judiciary Committee have ascertained that the President's private account kept at the Bank, is in a healthy condition—but why did they make the inquiry, is what most persons will ask.

—Ristori's receipts in Louisville for five nights were $4,745; in Indianapolis, for one night, about $1,600.

Rumor has it that George Peabody is engaged to Miss Burdett Coutts, of the eminent banking firm in London. Rumor has been having it at intervals, any time this thirty years, that Miss Burdett Coutts, the wealthiest woman probably in the world, was going to be married to some celebrity or another. It is not likely that her new change for matrimony will be any time and energies are absorbed in works of charity, and in dotting England with pretty little gothic churches.

—Kossuth still resides in Turin. He has grown permaturely old, and bears in his person the marks of the cruel disappointments and humiliations which have marked his life.

—The New Albany *Ledger* says: "Mr. John Thompson died at his residence near Salem, last week. Mr. Thompson was over 100 years of age. He was an inveterate smoker, and for this reason was playfully called by his neighbors Smoking Johnny."

—A Washington correspondent says of Forney: "He has a florid complexion, with wiry, auburn hair, buff colored side whiskers, broad forehead, open countenance, hazel eyes, and a pleasing smirk or grin is continually playing over his features." There is an agreeable touch of compliment in the "broad forehead and open countenance," but the "smirk or grin" is not so flattering.

—New Brunswick is a very small British province, not remarkable for great population or trade. Its Governor, however receives an annual salary of $50,000, in gold, which is nearly three times the $25,000 in currency paid to the President of the United States.

—The Hon. John Prentiss, for many years the editor and publisher of the Keene (N. H.) *Sentinel*, began his sixty-first year on Thursday last. He commenced the *Sentinel* in 1799, when he was just 21 years of age, his cash capital consisting of a five dollar bill.

STATE ITEMS.

Senator Lowry, of Erie, has been cased by John Burns, the "hero of Gettysburg." The cane bears the following inscription: "The root of this stick was baptized by the blood of Gen. Reynolds, on the battlefields of John Burns, who presented it to Senator Lowry."

The value of the timber, logs, boards, shingles, staves, &c., annually exported from Clearfield county, is not less than nine millions of dollars.

A large and handsomely-painted portrait o General Jackson, executed by the pupils of the Philadelphia School of Design, has been presented as their contribution to the State gallery of art.

On Wednesday, 20th inst., John W. Porter's refinery at Tidioute was entirely destroyed by fire, together with some two hundred barrels of crude oil and about an equal quantity of refined. The fire is supposed to have caught in one of the tanks by a spark from the still fire, and it spread with wonderful rapidity. Porter's loss will be between seven and eight thousand dollars, and he had no insurance. The steamboat built at Warren last season by Captain Gardner, was also burned, as was the flat lying on the ground opposite the refinery, waiting its finishing touches, and was to start with passengers and freight for Montana in a few weeks. Capt. Gardner was away at the time. The loss on the boat will reach nearly $2,500.

About four o'clock last Saturday morning a fire broke out in the derrick of the well on lease No. 8 of the Shoe and Leather Petroleum Company's tract of the Foster Farm, Pioneer Run. The flames spread to the derrick and a 1,200 barrel tank, containing 200 barrels of oil, on lease No. 7 of the same tract. From this point the burning oil ran into the bed of Pioneer Run, destroying in its course down the run, the derrick of the Lady Brooks well, situated on lease No. 5 on the Benninghoff Farm, and the engine house and derrick of the Cottage well on the Dean Refinery lease of the same farm. The oil was not extinguished until it had passed through several sluices, and was about half way from where it first caught to Pioneer City. Loss nearly three thousand dollars.

WHAT HE AIMED AT.—A very plausible theory of the influences and ideas which have shaped the course of Andrew Johnson since he accidentally became President—which in fact begat and nurtured into abortive maturity the plan for administering the affairs of the country known as "My Policy"—is suggested by the New York *Sun*. That Journal assumes, in the first place, that Mr. Johnson, having, according to his own boast, filled every office from that of Village Alderman to Chief Magistrate of the United States, is, nevertheless, dissatisfied with the manner in which he attained the latter distinguished position and can only have his appetite for public distinction appeased with an election, obtained by a vote of the people instead of through a fortuitous combination of circumstances. Absorbed in this ambition, all his energies and the admittedly no small share of political sagacity or cunning which he possesses have been directed toward the one object. From the first he was conscious that he had no real strength with the party to whom, nominally, he owed his last and greatest elevation. He knew that his nomination as Vice President was almost as accidental as his succession to the Presidency itself, and that he would never obtain Republican support in his aspirations after a second and legitimate term. His only hope was in rerivifying the dry bones of the Democratic party and, by filling the galvanized corpse with Southern gas, give it a sufficient renewal of life and strength before the fall of 1868 to make his calling and election sure. Every act and word almost that the President has done and uttered during the past eighteen months go to corroborate the correctness of this theory. What measure of success his policy may achieve the future only can decide. At present its prospects of complete and glorious triumph do not bear a flattering appearance.

A NEW counterfeit is reported—a five dollar bill on the People's National Bank of Jackson, Michigan. The design is correct, but the engraving is coarse. On the back, the words "this note," &c., touch the edge of the ornamental border; in the genuine they do not touch it. Many other things are defective, but the plate may be improved so as to make it still more dangerous.

BY FOREIGN MAILS.

The Government Reform Bill Not Satisfactory---Amnesty Extended to Exiles ---Brigandage in Italy.

NEW YORK, March 30.—The steamship City of Paris, from Liverpool March 30th and Queenstown 21st, arrived at 6 this evening. She brings 797 passengers.

In the House of Commons on the 8th, Disraeli, in an able and brilliant speech, proposed the Government reform scheme. He said with views to the reform question the Government proposed a household suffrage franchise, with two years' residential and tax paying conditions. Out of 723,000 householders in England and Wales, the non-voters this proposition would enfranchise was 207,000, increasing borough voters to 881,000. The principal left 486,000 householders without a vote, who, as they did not pay their rates, would not become qualified. The Government thought it desirable too fer compound householders an opportunity to obtain the privileges of voting upon fulfilling their constitutional duties. He did not state, however, what form the opportunity would take. He then enumerated the fancy franchises, namely, a vote to every person who pays twenty shillings in direct tax, is in possession of fifty pounds in a Savings Bank or the funds, and to members of the learned professions. He contradicted the statement that the possessor of four franchises would have a vote in addition to which he was entitled by reason of being a householder. He explained that a person who paid twenty shillings either as income tax or assessed tax, but not taxes had under licenses, should have alone the privilege of both franchises. The Government proposed to reduce the county franchise to fifteen pound rating. Disraeli estimates that the scheme would add nearly one million voters in the boroughs and three hundred thousand in the counties.

Mr. Gladstone severely criticised the scheme. He declined to accept Disraeli's figures, regarding three-fourths of the new voters as men in buckram. He denounced the dual vote as a gigantic fraud, and expressed the opinion that the bill would never pass as a whole.

Mr. Lowe and other supporters of the Government opposed the bill. The Liberal journals, including the *Times*, all consider that there is little chance for the bill, and call for the abandonment of the duality principle at once, that proposition alone being fatal to the whole scheme.

E. G. Squires, appointed by act as juror at the Paris Exhibition, has been arrested on some liabilities in connection with his former infamous scheme, and was detained as a prisoner at Lancaster Castle.

It is stated the Pope agrees to allow Italian troops to enter his States to help the Papal troops in suppressing brigandage. Antonelli opposed the proposition.

It is announced that the Emperor of Russia has extended the amnesty to all Frenchmen exiled to Siberia for complicity in the Polish rebellion.

In the North German Parliament an amendment to draft a constitution providing freedom of the press and right of public meetings was rejected.

On the 21st Mr. Gladstone convened a meeting of the Liberal members of the House of Commons. It was understood to agree on a course in opposition to the government reform bill.

The steamer Tripoli sailed from Queenstown for New York on the 30th, with a large number of passengers.

ROME, March 20.—A proclamation has been issued at Fraisimore, offering a reward of 600 scudi for the capture of every brigand, dead or alive, and 1,200 scudi for the capture of every chief of a band.

GREAT FIRE IN ST. LOUIS.

ST. LOUIS, March 31.—The Lindell Hotel, the largest building of its kind on the continent, if not in the world, was totally destroyed by fire last night. There is a good deal of mystery about the origin of the fire, but the most reliable accounts are that it broke out in one of the west front rooms in the fifth story, about half-past eight o'clock, but the alarm was not sounded till after nine o'clock. At this time the fire was confined to two rooms on that floor, but owing to the extreme height of the building and difficulty of reaching the locality with hose, it gradually ascended till it broke through the sixth and seventh stories and reached the roof near the northwest corner of the building. From this point the fire rapidly extended underneath the roof to the entire width of the hotel to the east Sixth street front, and then moved rapidly downward till the whole structure was enveloped in flames. Up to the time the fire spread across the building it was the general belief that the lower part of the hotel would be saved, but as soon as the flames reached the elevators and inner courts, up and through which large currents of air rushed, the fire secured a new and powerful impetus, and all hope of staying the devouring element was lost. The efforts of the firemen were not relaxed, however, and the full force of the fire department was put forth until three o'clock, at which time all the inner work was consumed and a considerable portion of the walls had fallen, and what was once the stateliest, most imposing and handsome hotel in the country, was a mass of crumbling, blackened ruins.

The building was owned by the estate of Henry Ames & Co., Edward Ames being the representative of the property. Its original cost was $1,000,000. It was bought by Ames &